

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

Volume XVIII

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Number 8



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OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE
AMERICAN NATIONAL LIVE STOCK
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ONE DOLLAR A YEAR



MEATS IN STORAGE

PRACTICALLY no beef or lamb is placed in what is commonly termed as "cold storage" by Swift & Company for selling as steaks, chops, roasts, etc., by retail meat dealers. We know this is contrary to the general belief of producers and consumers.

The main reason why fresh meats are not put in what is commonly termed as "cold storage" is that it is unprofitable. Just as soon as beef and lamb are frozen for selling over the retail butcher's block, the price at which they may be sold immediately drops two or three cents a pound. Storage charges further increase this cost. Although we believe frozen beef and lamb are just as good as unfrozen, the consumer will not pay as much for the frozen.

To the foregoing we should add that you may see from time to time where 60,000,000 pounds of beef and lamb are in storage. Do not let these figures confuse you. These figures represent meat that has been put in storage to be used in the manufacture of sausage products and other prepared meats. Practically none of this meat will be sold as steaks, chops, and roasts.

Further, although 60,000,000 pounds of meat seems like a large amount, still it represents the beef from only approximately 100,000 average cattle which is a very small percentage of the 12,000,000 cattle slaughtered annually in the United States. A similar statement may be made for lamb.

Swift & Company

Over a period of years, Swift & Company's net profits from all sources have averaged only a fraction of a cent per pound.

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Anchoring Ranches and Ranchers

BY I. M. HOWARD

Stillwater, Oklahoma



—Soil Conservation Service

SOIL HELD BY GRASS IN SANDHILLS IN NEBRASKA

RAINDROPS PERFORM MIRACLES. They make grass grow; they prevent droughts; and they keep soil under the hoofs of growing cattle instead of letting it make night of day in distant states.

So important are raindrops that a committee appointed by President Roosevelt last July to study the Great Plains drought area reported, after making their study, that reduction of soil erosion and conservation of rainfall are basic to the preservation of any semblance of prosperity in the area—an area including thousands of acres of cattle country.

Emphasizing the importance of holding soil by holding raindrops, the committee had the following to say:

"Certain submarginal lands should be taken permanently out of commercial production. On arable farms such soil conserving practices as regrassing, contour plowing, listing, terracing, strip cropping, and the planting of shelter trees should be followed. Grasses of

demonstrated fitness to local conditions should be developed and used.

"In a land of little rain it is imperative that water should never be allowed needlessly to go to waste. The farming practices described will help reduce runoff and hold water in the soil. Dams may be of use not only in checking water erosion, but in holding back water for use during dry periods. In some cases they may produce power for pumping and other local uses. Thousands of stock reservoirs and wells should be developed to provide a more adequate water supply for stock. Small irrigation systems for groups of families will be found useful, and construction of large irrigation projects to supply families already in the region should be considered."

Storage of raindrops on farms and ranches in the western plains area was not so important when the country was being settled as now. Weather records show that the area was settled at the end of a forty-year dry period and at

the beginning of a wet period which has apparently terminated.

As old-timers in the cattle country know only too well, occasional droughts of the latter part of the nineteenth and early years of the twentieth century were assumed to be exceptional and were not taken as warnings. On the contrary, speculation continued and soil and moisture wasting methods of farming were continued.

With the invention of better farm machinery and the World War demand for wheat, more land was placed under cultivation than ever before. After the war, falling prices forced farmers further to expand their wheat acreages in order to sustain their cash income. Typical of this expansion was the increased area devoted to wheat in the Texas Panhandle, where the planting increased from 876,000 acres in 1924 to 2,458,000 in 1929.

"Nature and the market combined to make wheat farming highly speculative," the Great Plains Drought Area Committee reported. "Extreme instances can be found in which more than 90 per cent of the entire net income of a wheat farm over a period of 20 years was concentrated in a single year. Yet each year some or all of the wheat land was plowed and the soil exposed to the destructive forces of sun and wind.

"The economic results have been general insecurity, bankruptcy, tax delinquencies, absentee ownership, and an increase in tenancy. In eight Great Plains states the percentage of tenant farmers rose from 15.5 in 1880 to 38.9 in 1930. Since 1930 it has risen again, standing at 41.1 in 1935. Notwithstanding heroic efforts of their occupants, many farms have been abandoned. About 150,000 persons moved out of the Great Plains region between 1930 and 1935. The 'suitcase farmer' has made his appearance, visiting his land only a few weeks a year to plant and harvest



—Soil Conservation Service

DRIFTED SAND FROM WHEAT FIELD IN OKLAHOMA PANHANDLE

his crop, making no permanent improvements and abandoning his crop in drought years."

Dust storms of 1934, 1935, and 1936 have shown conclusively that all is not well in that area. They have been silent but forceful reminders of the fact that there has been too much land unprotected by grass and by raindrops. While the extent of erosion on the Great Plains has not yet been accurately measured, it is safe to say that 80 per cent is now in some stage of erosion. Thousands of acres have been abandoned. Boldly the handwriting on the wall reads: **FARMING PRACTICES WHICH HAVE DESTROYED THE SOD AND EXPOSED THE SOIL TO WASTAGE MUST BE CHANGED.**

In response to the challenge of Great Plains problems, the Drought Area Committee set up the following objectives:

1. Develop and maintain the highest possible income and standard of living in the region.
2. Develop a type of economy that will withstand the shocks of recurrent periods of drought.
3. Make the nature of public grants and subsidies such, and, in accordance with a central long-time plan, so well conceived, that the necessity for them will be ultimately eliminated.
4. Through these and other means restore the solvency of local governments and of the region as a whole.
5. Stabilize land tenure and occupancy and so reduce the more or less aimless migration out of the region, or from one point to another within the region, which takes place during drought periods.
6. In carrying out this policy, encourage such regroupings of the population as will permit greatest economy and efficiency in the conduct of schools, courts, policing, sanitation, and other public activities. Reduce social isolation.
7. Modify unsound tax systems in such a way as to proportion taxes to

ability to pay, which in turn depends upon the productivity of the land to be taxed. Combine governmental subdivisions too small or too poor to be operated efficiently.

8. Arrest the wastage of soil by erosion and make efficient use of the water resources of the region.

As these objectives plainly show, the Drought Area Committee is firm in its belief that any agricultural program used in the Great Plains region should be a program that will make the region permanently habitable. Conservation of soil and water is believed to be the basis for any sound agricultural program in the region.

"The drift away from the Great Plains has already begun," the committee reported, "and is likely to continue unless remedial measures are taken without delay. Over a long period of

years the plains will support more people and continue in larger measure their contributions to the country's welfare if the proposed program is adopted than they would if present tendencies were allowed to continue their course. The conservation of land and water, as here envisioned, is for the purpose, and only for the purpose, of conservation of human beings. . . .

"The future of the Great Plains involves the future not only of the more than 2,500,000 people now living there, and of their descendants; it means also the future of the nearly 10,000,000 in the states affected and more remotely, but yet substantially, the more than 120,000,000 people of the nation. It is bound up with the development of a sound national farming policy, upon which, in turn, depends our ability to provide both opportunities for and the requirement of a reasonable standard of living for all our people."

In retiring eroding cultivated land to grass and in storing up raindrops, the inhabitants of that country are truly anchoring their lands and themselves.

Calf Crops and Net Profits

TWO RECENT REPORTS—ONE ON AN eleven-year study of the cattle business in Arizona and the other on an economic survey of Routt and Moffat counties in northwestern Colorado—furnish some interesting information on earnings and calf crops.

In the Arizona experiment, conducted under the supervision of Matt Culley, of the Southwestern Forest and Range Experiment Station, Tucson, a range was used which comprised 24,700 acres—typical mixed-grass semidesert range—carrying 394 high-grade Hereford breeding



—Soil Conservation Service

BLUESTEM GRASS HOLDING SOIL ON OKLAHOMA FARM

cows, together with bulls, a few steers, and necessary horses. Capital invested averaged \$69.23 per breeding cow.

Gross receipts amounted to \$26.44 per cow, and the total operation costs (cash expenditures, indirect charges, and interest on capital invested) totaled \$20.81, leaving \$5.63 per breeding cow as net profits, over and above the amount received as interest. These net earnings are equivalent to 8.13 per cent on the average investment of \$69.23 per cow.

The calf crop averaged 82.7 per cent, based on the number of cows in the breeding herd. It cost \$25.11 to produce an 8- or 9-months-old calf.

It required, on the average, the sale of 173 calves—representing a 44 per cent calf crop—to meet the cash expenditures alone. To cover the entire cost—cash expenses and all other charges—it took the sale of all the miscellaneous cattle plus about a 60 per cent calf crop. Thus a calf crop greater than 60 per cent had to be produced before any net earnings could be obtained. The average calf crop was greater than this by nearly 23 per cent (82.7 minus 60). This favorable margin accounts for the 8.13 per cent net profits on the average investment of \$69.23 per cow.

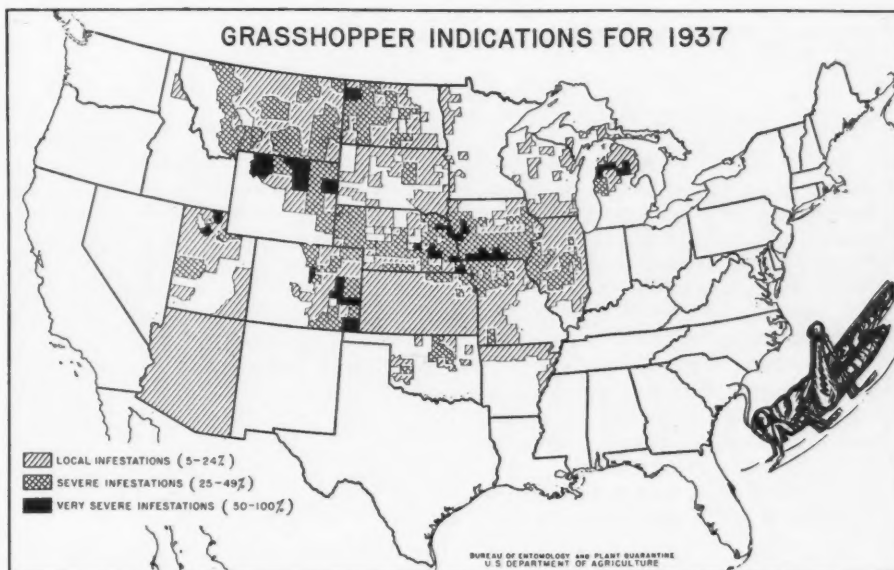
In the Colorado survey, made by R. T. Burdick, of the Colorado State College Experiment Station, Fort Collins, and Marion Clawson, of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, in co-operation with the forest and soil conservation services, it was found that the actual use of grazing land was 3.14 acres per animal unit (one cow or five sheep) per month. This is ten times the amount of irrigated pasture required.

The normal calf crop on 49 cattle ranches was 64.5 per cent. Sheep on winter grazing lands had 82 per cent lamb crops; those on winter feed, 92 per cent; and small farm flocks, 104 per cent.

Tariff Increase Plea Denied

DUTY INCREASES ASKED FOR IN APPLICATION to the United States Tariff Commission last fall by the American National Live Stock Association and various other live-stock and farm organizations have been denied and application "dismissed without prejudice."

The application for increases in canned meat duties carried the signatures of the American National Live Stock Association, the National Wool Growers' Association, the National Live Stock Marketing Association, and the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers' Association. It asked for an advance of duty from the present 6 cents a pound to 9 cents. Similar application for higher rates on meats and canned beef were filed by the American Farm Bureau Federation, the National Grange, and the National Co-operative Milk Producers' Federation. All the requests were denied.



Another Big Grasshopper Year

GRASSHOPPER ACTIVITY FOR 1937 IS less predictable than for any other season since the Department of Agriculture started making its annual surveys of this pest. Delayed and erratic egg laying—the result of the abnormal weather of 1936—and lack of time for thorough scouting for eggs in the ground last fall—because winter closed in so soon—have made it difficult to forecast the numbers of hoppers likely to hatch next year, according to Lee A. Strong, chief of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine. Present indications, however, point to serious outbreaks in Illinois, Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, North Dakota, Montana, Wyoming, and Colorado, and to less serious infestations in Michigan, Wisconsin, South Dakota, and Oklahoma.

The 1937 outbreak, it is estimated, will call for 81,252 tons of poison bait to be scattered over infested fields in twenty-two states. Only 26,997 tons of the poison bait was used in 1936. Although this bait saved thousands of acres of crops, grasshoppers caused a loss estimated at \$80,000,000 in nineteen states. The bait was not available early enough or in quantities large enough for adequate control.

The weather in 1936, though at first extremely favorable to grasshoppers, finally became too hot and dry for them, Mr. Strong says. With temperatures 90 degrees F. or more, day after day, over much of their range, hoppers in large numbers took to the air or roosted in the shade as far above ground as possible. They barked and defoliated trees and shrubs to get at the only moisture available and covered many fence posts and telegraph and telephone poles. These grasshoppers often were so overcome by the heat that one would barely move on being picked off its perch. Later in the season, as it became cooler

and rains revived green vegetation, the hoppers spread irregularly and deposited large numbers of eggs in many sections.

Feed Supplies Falling Short

FEEDERS ARE FACED WITH A SOMEWHAT critical feeding situation similar to that of 1934, says the Bureau of Agricultural Economics in its December summary of the feed situation. It is again necessary for feeders to reduce live-stock numbers, especially hogs, and to curtail feeding operations.

Unless the winter is unusually severe, however, the domestic feeding situation will be less critical than two years ago. Domestic forage supplies are considerably larger and grain supplies are slightly larger. Imports of grain are expected to exceed those of 1934-35.

Corn and barley prices are somewhat higher than two years ago, and recent advances in the price of oats have brought them to about the same level as in late 1934. Feed grain prices are supported, not only by small supplies, but by a stronger demand resulting from higher live-stock prices than in 1934. They probably will remain high until the prospects for the 1937 crops materially influence current prices.

To find out the quantity, quality, and location of the winter feed supply available to prospective buyers, a survey is being made by the bureau's Live Stock Feed Agency at Kansas City, Missouri. The agency will list persons who may have feed to sell and those who may wish to buy. Information will be gathered also covering country elevators which have grain to ship. The agency neither buys nor sells feed, but serves as a clearing-house for information as to available supplies. The current survey is the third which has been made by the bureau this season; a fourth may be made next March.

Developments in Marketing, 1936*

BY C. W. KITCHEN

Assistant Chief, Bureau of Agricultural Economics

IN MARKETING, change follows change. New ideas and suggestions for changes in methods of marketing are also steadily being brought forward in an effort to correct abuses and to facilitate the flow of commodities in more economical and efficient ways. Many are stimulated by conditions that demand attention. Few are purely theoretical.

Most of the urgent marketing problems are regional or general in scope. To solve them the joint efforts of federal and state forces will be needed. Thus our co-operative work, now so well under way with many of the states, should continue and increase.

Agricultural Situation

The drought laid a heavy hand upon many agricultural producers during the year, and consumers cannot entirely escape the results. It reduced crop production considerably, perhaps 20 to 25 per cent below what might have been expected had anything like normal weather prevailed during the growing season. Its effect cannot be erased at once. Careful planning in relation to the outlook for the country as a whole and for the areas most affected will be required.

But the year brought higher prices to those farmers who have products to sell. Cash income from farm marketings for the present year, tentatively estimated at \$7,850,000,000, represents an advance of 10 per cent over the total amount received last year. It is the fourth successive advance since the low point of 1932. Farm real estate values show a 4 per cent rise—the fourth successive rise of approximately that per cent since the low point.

Our ability to produce, however, exceeds our present ability to market successfully. We can amply supply existing markets and furnish additional supplies for emergencies and extraordinary demands as they arise from time to time. Purchasing power at home has improved and some improvement is noted in foreign markets. Generally, however, foreign demand for our farm products continues weak. Trade barriers, such as excessive tariffs, import quotas, and exchange restrictions, still are a resisting force in most channels of international commerce. Recently, however, there has been evidence of a tendency toward relaxation of such barriers, but until purchasing power can be increased to the point where most people can buy more nearly all they need, the problem of adjusting normal production to market demand will confront producers.

*Excerpts from address delivered at a meeting of the National Association of State Marketing Officials, held at Nashville, Tenn., October 20.

Marketing Tendencies

Such developments in marketing as might be noted on this occasion are related mostly to marketing methods and legislation. Changes in technique are found at the country end, at the city end, and along the way between. At few points in the channels of trade does the method seem to be entirely static. Inertia is evident, of course, but it is not free from pressures from several sources.

Legislation, both federal and state, has exerted some of this pressure and has set in motion some changes that will be relatively far reaching.

Beginning at the country end, the marketing of live stock presents a specific example of changing tendencies.

Direct marketing of hogs, which began soon after the close of the World War, and of cattle, calves, sheep, and lambs, about a decade later, continues to increase. Figures compiled by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics show that 47 per cent of the hogs were sold direct to packers, instead of through public stock yards, in 1935, compared with 35 per cent in 1928. They show also that 26 per cent of the sheep and lambs were sold direct in 1935, compared with 15 per cent in 1928; and 28 per cent of the calves, compared with 16 per cent in 1928. An increase of 7 per cent is shown in direct marketing of cattle—19 per cent in 1935, compared with 12 per cent seven years earlier.

Increases have not been uniform nor are they shown for all important producing regions. The proportion of all kinds of live stock bought by slaughterers direct has increased in the Corn Belt and in the south Atlantic and south central areas.

Auctions

We are now in a period in which auction selling of live stock is increasing. Some auctions are confined to slaughter live stock, but apparently most of them also handle stockers, feeders, and breeding stock. Many auctions are not confined to live stock but sell anything that farmers or others have to offer.

Wool auction sales have been successful in major wool-producing countries, but they are still experimental here. Our only successful attempt thus far was the auction after the World War of government-owned surplus wools.

In 1934 and 1935, a firm in Utah introduced wool auction sales near sources of production as an experiment. Of the 3,000,000 pounds of wool offered, more than 2,000,000 pounds were graded under the supervision of the bureau; 700,000 pounds were sufficiently uniform to be offered in the original bags or ungraded, but only a small percentage of the offer-

ings was sold at auction. It was said that dealers and manufacturers had already bought rather heavily of the new clip.

Auctions are announced again at Denver and at Ogden this month with over 6,000,000 pounds to be offered. The bureau has sent a member of its staff to observe developments. . . .

The Consumers' Interest

Individual consumers continue to show more interest in marketing practices. They are finding ways for more collective expression of their views. We officials, both state and federal, who have been associated with the development and use of quality standards are aware of this growing interest in more definite evidence of the quality of the products they buy. Consumers are insisting upon the right to know what they are buying. This is particularly true of such foods as canned goods, dairy and poultry products, and meats.

Grades especially adapted for retail or consumer use have been developed for eggs, butter, dressed poultry, meats, and many of the more important canned fruits and vegetables. Products bearing these grade names are found, to an increasing extent, on retail shelves. If the grade names are still on the product when it is displayed in the retail store, consumers can easily identify the quality of the food they buy. This is especially true with articles like canned goods where the consumer has no opportunity to see the product and even form an opinion of his own regarding its quality. No program of standardization for farm products can ignore this growing interest.

With authority granted the Bureau of Agricultural Economics four years ago, a grading service for canned fruits and vegetables was started in a small way. . . . Several state and city purchasing departments are now using the grade specifications with savings to themselves and, in addition, millions of cans are now being labeled, principally by large chain store organizations, with the grades A, B, and C representing the quality specifications adopted by the bureau.

The volume of butter and eggs packaged with certificates of quality or grade labels is steadily increasing, as is the demand to use these labels from firms engaged in packaging and distributing butter and eggs for this type of service. Last year, more than 242,000,000 pounds of butter were graded, of which about 50,000,000 pounds were sold to consumers with the certificate of quality label on the consumer package. . . .

The first notable retail use of grades was when the Bureau of Agricultural Economics began to stamp meat carcasses with a roller stamp showing the class and grade name. This service has been particularly popular in the merchandising of beef. Last year more than 350,000,000 pounds of beef were officially graded, of a total of about 425,000,000 pounds of all meats. Interest in meat

grading is so well developed that a bill, sponsored by live-stock producer interests, was introduced just before Congress adjourned, having for its purpose the requirement that all beef shipped or sold in interstate commerce be graded. . . .

The bureau has brought together this year material that made possible a compilation of the spreads that have occurred between farmers and the consumers in regard to 58 foods for the last 23 years. This compilation forms a base for much needed studies.

Considerably more than 50 per cent of the amounts spent by consumers for food stays with the processors, distributors, and transportation agencies as their share of the cost of the handling of agricultural commodities. This is a heavy share. Although it does not condemn the marketing system as inefficient, it does emphasize again the necessity for continued and more intensive study of marketing methods, including processing, transportation, and selling. The interests of both farmers and consumers make such studies imperative.

We know that the cost and charges represented by the margin change only gradually and slowly. Fluctuation of prices at the farm, therefore, are proportionately wider than the fluctuations in retail prices. To this was due in large measure the abrupt drop in prices received by farmers during the depression of 1921 and again during the downswing from 1929 to 1933.

Little attempt has been made as yet to break down the margins to find out just how much goes to pay for transportation, for processing, for wholesaling, and for other functions of marketing and distribution. Nor has any attempt been made to justify or criticize the size of the price margins. To reach well-supported conclusions on these phases of the question will require thoroughgoing research. It is a field in which federal and state agencies can co-operate effectively. . . .

Recent Federal Legislation

The Commodity Exchange Act is of general interest. It went into effect September 13, 1936. The new act brings under the supervision of the Department of Agriculture the trading in futures contracts on commodity exchanges for rice, cotton, mill feeds, butter, eggs, and potatoes, in addition to grains. The Grain Futures Administration of the department, which is directly in charge of the administration of the act, is now known as the Commodities Exchange Administration.

Another federal enactment of interest to marketing officials is the amendment to the Packers and Stock Yards Act which brings live poultry dealers and handlers within the purview of that act. The amendment authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to designate live poultry markets where regulation of trade practices is in the public interest. The largest live poultry market is in New York

City. That market, together with several others, has been designated by the secretary. The amendment is administered by the Bureau of Animal Industry of the department.

The Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act was again further amended to clarify and strengthen some of its provisions. One amendment grants authority to deny a license to a corporation if one of its officers has been guilty of repeated or flagrant violations of the act. Before this amendment was adopted, a person engaged in business as an individual and with his license about to expire could incorporate and receive a new license, even though he might have repeatedly violated the act. The amendment corrects this situation. . . .

A federal act covering the collection of peanut statistics was approved. It follows closely the act known as the Tobacco Stocks and Standards Act. It authorizes the department to collect and publish statistics showing the quantities of raw peanuts and peanut oil in the United States in the possession of warehouse men and handlers other than original growers. The department is also authorized to promulgate grades for peanuts. This legislation, when an appropriation is made to carry it out, will make it possible for us to provide more adequate statistical data as urged by the peanut industry for several years.

A resolution was agreed to which extends the authorization for a special committee of Congress to investigate the production, transportation, and marketing of wool.

A bill of wide general interest was enacted, commonly referred to as the Robinson-Patman Act. This is an anti-price-discrimination measure and is in the form of an amendment to the Clayton anti-trust act. It is designed to prevent arbitrary discrimination in the course of interstate commerce as the result of which sellers may confer substantial competitive advantages upon some customers and not upon others. Primarily the purpose is to restore equality of opportunity in business without penalizing service and efficiency. The Federal Trade Commission is charged with the enforcement of this act.

The Federal Trade Commission under special authorization is studying the cost of distribution of agricultural products and marketing practices. The report of this survey, no doubt, will include useful and needed data on marketing costs and charges. These studies have been concerned principally with large-scale processors and distributors and the possible effect of their business methods on prices to the producer and to the consumer.

Recent State Legislation

Among the enactments of state legislatures it is noted that Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi accepted the provisions of the Federal Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act, which

qualified those states for all purposes and benefits thereunder.

The Alabama legislature provided authority for the regulation dealing with transactions in live stock for resale or slaughter. Provision is made for the licensing of dealers by the Commissioner of Agriculture.

Louisiana declared for protection against unlawful combinations, conspiracies, and monopolies in buying or selling products of the soil; also an act was passed prohibiting the distribution, sale, or exchange of goods manufactured by convict labor.

In Mississippi a new seed law was passed to regulate the selling, offering, or exposing for sale of all agricultural and vegetable seeds, and providing for inspection thereof.

New Jersey provided for the collection of dues of members of incorporated milk producers' associations. Such collections are to be made through deductions by milk dealers from the receipts of milk producers whenever 75 per cent of such producers request such action to be taken.

New York continues the milk publicity campaign and the tax on milk for that purpose. It also amends existing law in regard to the acquisition and dissemination of information on market prices of food products by providing for information on market condition. An appropriation was approved to enforce the New York retail grades for eggs.

Rhode Island continued in power the Board of Milk Control, enacted a law regulating the sale and marketing of eggs, amended the law concerning the inspection and legislation of dairies and dealers and distributors of milk, and put on the books a new law to cover the regulation and control of the sale of commercial feeding stuffs.

Virginia made a change in its supervision of the inspection of apples and peaches. The use of "certified" or like word is prohibited in advertising or selling seeds, tubers, and plants in Virginia unless inspected and certified. Certain sections of the Code of 1924 are amended in connection with the marketing of agricultural seed. All persons engaged in peanut picking by machine are to be licensed and are to furnish proper record and reports of acreage and the quantity picked.

Even this brief mention of federal and state laws focuses attention upon the large and increasing number of existing laws and regulations affecting the marketing of farm products. These laws are of various kinds and represent a wide range of purposes. Many are extremely general, some are specific, some are rigidly enforced, many are not, and probably some are unenforceable. Many of them effect, either directly or indirectly, the free movement of farm products in interstate commerce. Some facilitate the free flow of such commerce; others may be so obstructive as to be detrimental rather than helpful.

Safeguarding Our Cattle Industry

BY PAUL W. TEEGARDIN

President, American Shorthorn Breeders' Association

THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT that the United States cattle producers face the most acute crisis, so far as the future of the industry is concerned, that they have ever confronted. This is due directly and entirely to the proposed lifting of the embargo which has been effective for the past nine years as a protective measure against the importation of meats and live stock from Argentina. The main basis of this embargo, if not the sole reason for it, has been to prevent such shipments because of the existence of the dreaded foot-and-mouth disease in Argentina.

Various arguments have been advanced to encourage the belief that with existing precautions there is no danger of transporting the foot-and-mouth disease to this country. Experience, however, does not offer any encouragement in that direction, and the Bureau of Animal Industry is fully aware of the dangers involved in the lessening of the present restrictions.

The reader will understand that the recent endeavor to do away with the embargo has its foundation in the desire to work out trade agreements with South American countries in which production costs are far below those of the United States. But the seriousness that attaches to the foot-and-mouth disease situation wherever it exists is manifest by the fact that strict quarantines are enforced by this country against some fifty-seven countries in South America, Europe, Asia, Africa, and various island possessions. And they are enforced for no reason other than the danger of the transportation of the disease.

We do not have to look back far to recall the outbreak of this dreaded disease, traceable directly "to infections brought in from South America or from ships from the Oriental trade," as stated by Secretary F. E. Mollin of the American National Live Stock Association, in a recent letter to President Roosevelt, reviewing the whole foot-and-mouth disease situation as it relates to importations into this country. It would seem that there are no limits to which we would not be justified in going to prevent a recurrence of that disturbing and costly experience. We have too much at stake to give even slight heed to any proposal that would expose our vast live-stock industry to any possibility of contracting the disease. We can produce meat products in sufficient quantity for domestic needs and at prices equitable to the consumers and, usually, with some exportable surplus.

Some idea of the hazards may be gained when it is known that "the

germs have remained dormant on our farms and ranches for a full year after the last infected animal had been slaughtered and buried in quicklime," again quoting Secretary Mollin. All of which suggests that clean-up campaigns in any country or district offer no insurance that existing germs may not be transported to the four corners of the world many months afterwards.

This is not a political or a trade extension question, so far as the United States live-stock grower is concerned. It is a question of saving the enormous investment throughout this country in the industry, and the saving also of necessary meat supplies for our people. It must be understood that much of our live-stock production is carried on in regions not suitable for any other purpose, and any factor that acts as a menace to the continuance of the industry renders unthinkable areas of our country near useless.

The resolution adopted by the United States Live Stock Sanitary Association, composed of leading veterinary officials of the nation, in December, covers the situation and is especially necessary at this time as the new Congress will have the matter up for consideration. The resolution follows:

"Resolved, That this association go on record as vigorously opposing any modification of the existing federal laws governing the movement of live stock or live-stock products from any foreign country harboring foot-and-mouth disease or any other transmissible disease of live stock which does not now exist in the United States."

The situation calls for the militant support of every stock grower in this country, that his investment and future security may be adequately protected when congressional consideration gets under way.

California Cattlemen Meet

AMONG THE MANY RESOLUTIONS adopted at the twentieth annual convention of the California Cattlemen's Association, held at San Francisco, December 11-12, perhaps the most outstanding was the voicing of strong objection to the ratification of the Argentine sanitary convention—an agreement that is meeting opposition in all parts of the country.

Hugh Baber, of Chico, a past president of the California Wool Growers' Association, was elected president. He succeeds William A. Freeman, of Santa Paula, twice president of the California Cattlemen's Association. Harvey Russell,

of Madera, succeeds George Sawday, of Witch Creek, as vice-president.

High lights of the speaking program were talks by Frank Powers, of Eagleville, former state senator; Frank H. Buck, of Vacaville, member of the United States House Ways and Means Committee; Dr. W. E. Howe, of the Bureau of Animal Industry; L. W. Fluharty and H. R. Guilbert, of the University of California; Edson Abel, secretary of the California Prorate Commission; Colonel Edward N. Wentworth, director of Armour's Live Stock Bureau, Chicago; Richard W. Young, general counsel, Farm Credit Administration, Oakland; F. E. Mollin, secretary, American National Live Stock Association; report of Secretary John Curry; and annual address by President Freeman.

Considerable discussion centered around the strengthening of the hide and brand laws to give more power to enforcement officers. A resolution was passed urging such action by the next session of the state legislature.

Among other resolutions adopted were the following:

Requesting retention of McCarren amendment in Taylor Grazing Act, and asking that power of local boards be more specifically defined;

Opposing arbitrary Forest Service cuts for distribution;

Objecting to extension of national parks;

Requesting investigation of brush burning;

Urging construction of trails to keep stock off highways;

Suggesting caution in working out federal program for cattle industry;

Asking that Bang's disease program be on voluntary basis;

Favoring grading and stamping of meats;

Favoring regulation of shore and floating sardine reduction plants;

Requesting lower state feeder cattle freight rates; favoring repeal of new truck regulatory law; and favoring Pettengill bill;

Asking highway commission to build necessary fences and that state forester and county protect county roads by roadside burning;

Protesting against tariff reductions on farm products; requesting weekly or monthly quota on cattle from Canada; and favoring canned-meat tariff increase and adequate tariff on fats and oils;

Opposing processing or excise tax on cattle; objecting to sales tax on breeding stock; but favoring retention of state sales tax;

Opposing weakening of trespass laws, but asking that strays be not considered as trespassing where 60 per cent of land is used for grazing unless land is properly fenced;

Urging co-ordinated program of pred-

atory animal control; asking that some deer hunting be permitted and that property owners be paid for feeding and caring for deer, geese, and mud hens; and opposing night hunting;

Opposing legislation to prevent stockmen from doctoring their animals or purchasing vaccines and serums;

Naming committees to study noxious weed control and liver fluke, and asking stockmen to co-operate in eradicating screw worm;

Opposing Capper-Hope-Wearin type of legislation.

Graziers Pass Resolutions

STOCKMEN OPERATING UNDER THE Taylor Grazing Act concluded on December 11 a three-day parley at Salt Lake City with the adoption of recommendations for submission to the Secretary of the Interior.

Among resolutions passed was a recommendation of appointment of Director of Grazing F. R. Carpenter* for a four-year term, a proposal that future directors be chosen from ten nominees from the West's grazing states, and a recommendation to make local advisory boards a permanent feature of the setup.

Other recommendations adopted prescribed:

That term permits be issued upon recommendations of advisory boards up to 75 per cent of allotments recommended for any range unit, the remaining 25 per cent remaining under temporary license pending completion of range surveys;

That priority rule determination be left to district advisory boards;

That seasonal licenses be continued until advisory boards feel permit issuance is justified;

That Taylor act be amended to provide for return to advisory boards for range improvement the 50 per cent of grazing fees now accruing to state treasuries, making 75 per cent of collected funds available for disbursement under recommendation of advisory boards and direction of the Secretary of the Interior, (the convention approving a proposed model state law to be submitted to legislatures in states which do not voluntarily return the 50 per cent to advisory boards in districts where the funds are collected);

That grazing fees of five cents a month a head for cattle and one cent for sheep and goats be continued but not increased.

The fees committee declined to make a recommendation on levying charges against newly organized districts, leaving this problem to discretion of the Secretary of Interior and local boards.

*As we go to press we learn that Mr. Carpenter's appointment has been referred to the Senate.

Annual Report of Forest Service

A BID FOR PROPER EVALUATION and common sense management of our land, rather than "the slow, painful, and wasteful process of unguided and delayed adjustment to altered conditions," is made in the annual report just issued by the Forest Service. Land-use planning, says the report, will be one of the definite administrative objectives as the Forest Service enters the fiscal year 1937.

The report shows that on June 30, 1936, the gross area of the national forests was 197,434,517 acres, of which 31,455,826 acres were in ownership other than that of the United States. That leaves a net area of 165,978,691 acres in national forests—an increase during the year of 2,668,689 acres. An additional 3,123,832 acres acquired under the Weeks Law were within purchase units that had not yet been given a national forest status. Five new national forests were created during the period. Since 1932, \$44,543,500 has been expended in the purchase of forest land.

National forest additions during the fiscal year 1936 were made as shown in the following table:

Alabama	362,819
Arkansas	598,935
California	636
Florida	306,395
Idaho	84,557
Louisiana	637,927
Mississippi	2,057,680
Montana	23,456
North Carolina	442
Oregon	666,362
South Dakota	400
Utah	187,465
Virginia	2,770,059
Washington	3,016
West Virginia	1,007,752
Wisconsin	89
Wyoming	440,212
Total	9,148,202

For the national forest as a whole, the 1935 fire season is reported as less severe than that of 1934. During the fire season of 1935 the Forest Service fought and controlled 10,689 fires—slightly fewer than the number fought in 1934 but 2,013 more than the average number over a five-year period. The national forest land burned in 1935 totaled 168,394 acres, causing a damage of \$336,145. In 1934, 555,309 acres were burned, doing damage to the amount of 1,720,365. The report mentions the availability of CCC help as of the greatest value.

Physical improvements in the national forests through the CCC and other facilities included the construction during the year of 4,671 miles of telephone lines, 282 public camp grounds, 6 airplane landing fields, 1,930 miles of fire-breaks, 5,911 miles of roads, and 1,964 miles of trails. Range improvements included the construction of 1,979 miles of range fences, 594 miles of stock drive-ways, and development of 2,260 water

supplies. More than a thousand small dams were constructed for recreational use, fish, wild life, and water conservation. By tree planting and other methods, control of erosion has been effected on 345,424 acres.

Reforestation was carried out on 140,724 acres—an increase of 66,008 acres over 1935. The 1936 planting is the largest ever made, a large portion of the work being done in the Lake states and the South where recently acquired national forest lands include extensive cut-over and burned-over areas.

Timber sales from the national forests reached the total of more than 1,000,000,000 board feet—an increase of nearly 36 per cent over 1935. A marked increase in the number of small timber sales indicates a growing demand for fuel, fencing, and building material by farmers and others.

Stock grazed on the national forest range included 1,315,233 cattle, 29,085 horses, 5,681,938 sheep, and 9,148 goats. The number of cattle permittees in the calendar year 1935 increased 1 per cent and the number of sheep permittees 1.7 per cent, but the number of cattle allowed to graze under permit decreased 5 per cent and sheep 8 per cent. Reductions for protection amounted to 37,210 cattle and horses and 238,885 sheep and goats (equivalent to 2.5 and 3.8 per cent, respectively, of the total numbers allowed in 1934), and for distribution, 15,500 cattle and horses and 100,423 sheep and goats.

Drought experiences with the national forest pastures, says the report, are pointing increasingly to the necessity of leaving an average of at least 30 per cent of the feed unutilized in normal seasons to secure the best new growth the following season. A "distribution survey," involving a thorough analysis of the relationships between use of national forest grazing resources and regional or local economic and social problems, will be completed in 1937, it is expected.

Public interest, says the report, has greatly increased in the subject of wild life and is asking that it be given due consideration in land and resource management. Of special importance in the problem are the relations with growing recreational uses; also, domestic livestock uses. National forest visitors, fishermen and hunters included, increase each year. Domestic stock grazed on the forests total, with their increase, more than 12,000,000 animals. Sheep use about 20 per cent of the national forest area in the western states, and cattle 42 per cent; 38 per cent of the area is not used by domestic stock. It is where game and domestic stock use the same range that objectives and management plans need first attention, the report states. The accumulation of data and their applica-

tion to planned management will constitute one of the principal activities of the recently established Division of Wildlife Management.

Cattle and horse losses from poisonous plants, predatory animals, disease, and other causes totaled 18,641 animals, valued at \$559,230. Sheep and goat losses ran up to 151,410 animals, valued at \$757,050.

Reporting that both state and federal encouragement has been given during the past fifty years to farm woodland and shelter planting in the Great Plains, the report showed a total of 1,277 miles of shelterbelt strip planted under the shelterbelt project in 1935 and 1936, and 6,474 acres farmstead planting established, with 19,281,592 trees, cuttings, and nuts growing, as of June 30, 1936.

Results thus far obtained in shelterbelt planting, according to the Forest Service, demonstrate the feasibility of this type of work in the Great Plains region, where an urgent necessity exists for an extensive tree-planting program and where extension of the work over a larger part of the region is recognized as a major factor in water and soil conservation and in moderation of effects of drought.

The national forests now harbor during the summer period about three-fourths of the big game ranging in the western states. Areas east of the Mississippi, while of smaller extent, are also important as the yearlong home of different species. More than 1,500,000 big game animals and nearly that number of fur bearers are present, according to current estimates. This is a total of about 120 per cent increase in big game since 1924.

Big game animals on national forests are estimated as below:

	1935	1934
Antelope	16,598	15,013
Black or Brown Bear	55,079	55,122
Grizzly Bear.....	5,269	5,172
Deer	1,291,329	1,038,416
Elk	117,916	120,638
Moose	6,186	8,127
Mountain Goats	18,511	17,962
Mountain Sheep	12,924	13,145

Conventions and Resolutions

ABOUT FORTY MEMBERS ATTENDED THE annual meeting of the Mohave County Stock Growers' Association, held in Kingman, Arizona, on December 19.

Officers elected were C. L. Cornwall, president; Homer Gaddis, treasurer; and Aubrey Gist, secretary—all of Kingman. New members named on the board of directors were: A. J. Mullen, Bud Cornwall, and E. L. Jameson, all Mohave County cattlemen.

Clarence Jackson, of Yavapai County, was one of the speakers at the meeting. His subject was the "Calf Plan"—the plan which has given Yavapai a national reputation and the American National Live Stock Association \$1,000 checks from it several years in a row.

The North Park Stock Growers' Association at a meeting held in Walden, Colorado, on December 19 adopted a resolution opposing "any modification of the existing federal laws regarding the movement of live stock or live-stock products from foreign countries where hoof-and-mouth disease or any other transmissible disease is known to exist and which does not exist in the United States."

A committee was appointed to work out details of a bull ticket plan, the drawing of which will be made at the El Paso convention of the American National Live Stock Association. Proceeds from the scheme will go toward contributions for the state and national organizations and for local association work.

* * *

The Argentine sanitary convention was opposed in a resolution adopted by the Delta County Live Stock Association at its meeting held at Delta, Colorado, on December 29. "Should the foot-and-mouth disease gain foothold in the mountain areas," the resolution stated, "not only would domestic live stock have to be killed and destroyed at great loss, but deer, elk, mountain sheep, and other game now running on the forest reserves would have to be exterminated."

Another resolution adopted demanded that the Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act be repealed, "or that all trades negotiated under it be subject to ratification by two-thirds vote of the United States Senate."

A resolution commending the work of Director of Grazing F. R. Carpenter and urging his reappointment was passed.

* * *

With a "we don't mean maybe!" warning, the Rio Blanco Farmers' and Stock Growers' Association (Colorado) is offering a \$200 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of anyone stealing and butchering cattle belonging to the association. The organization has also set aside funds to pay for inspection of all hides that come to butchers in Meeker, Colorado.

Fifty contributors, members of the Rio Blanco, are the most recent of our "calf-plan" converts. Three hundred dollars have been remitted to the American National Live Stock Association under this local association's plan, which has been worked out under the leadership of Ezra K. Baer, of Meeker.

* * *

Legislation that would put an embargo on the importation of beef when prices in the United States drop to cost of production or below was asked in a resolution adopted at a recent meeting of the Gunnison County Stock Growers' Association, held at Gunnison, Colorado.

Another resolution objected to ratification of the Argentine sanitary convention because such action would endanger the health of our live stock.

A strong resolution in opposition to the ratification of the Argentine sanitary agreement was adopted by the Farmers' and Fruit Growers' Association, meeting at Bakersfield, California, on December 14-15. The organization is representative of various farming interests of the state.

Other resolutions favored grading and stamping of meat; favored placing of Canadian cattle on weekly or monthly quota for 1937; opposed anti-direct marketing legislation similar to the Capper-Hope-Wearin bills; favored increase in canned meat tariff and existing tax on foreign fats and oils; and asked for enactment of the Pettengill bill.

* * *

Directors and stockholders of the National Wool Marketing Corporation re-elected as their president Charles Redd, of La Sal, Utah. Other officers named included Edward Sargent, of Chama, New Mexico, first vice-president; Worth S. Lee, of Mountain Home, Idaho; Clair Hotchkiss, of Hotchkiss, Colorado; and Floyd W. Lee, of San Mateo, New Mexico, members of the executive committee.

* * *

A strengthening rather than weakening of the federal quarantine regulations against foot-and-mouth disease was requested in a resolution passed by the American Farm Bureau Federation at its annual convention held at Pasadena, California, on December 9-12.

The resolution strongly opposed the proposed Argentine sanitary agreement and commended the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations for its refusal to report that document to the Senate.

The Calendar

- Jan. 16-23—National Western Stock Show, Denver, Colo.
- Jan. 19-20—Convention of Utah Wool Growers' Ass'n, Salt Lake City
- Jan. 20—National Western Hereford Sale, Denver, Colo.
- Jan. 21—American Shorthorn Sale, Denver, Colo.
- Jan. 26-28—Convention of National Wool Growers' Ass'n, Albuquerque, N. M.
- Feb. 16-17—Convention of Arizona Cattle Growers' Ass'n, Douglas, Ariz.
- Mar. 6-9—San Angelo Fat Stock Show, San Angelo, Tex.
- Mar. 12-21—Southwestern Exposition and Fat Stock Show, Ft. Worth, Tex.
- Mar. 16-18—Convention of Texas and Southwest Cattle Raisers' Ass'n, Ft. Worth, Tex.
- Mar. 26-27—Convention of New Mexico Cattle Growers' Ass'n, Raton, N. M.
- May 19-20—Convention of Montana Stock Growers' Ass'n, Bozeman, Mont.
- June 4-5—Convention of Cattle and Horse Raisers' Ass'n of Oregon, Prineville, Ore.

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EDITORIALS

Our Reciprocity Act

THE CLEAR INDICATIONS ARE that as a result of the large vote given in the recent election the administration will press forward with its reciprocal trade program. It is just as clearly indicated that agriculture as a whole is somewhat apprehensive of what the future may hold as a result of this policy, with a dozen or more trade agreements already in effect and the intimation that several more are soon to be entered into.

As an example of the attitude of prominent agricultural organizations may be cited the resolutions of the National Grange, adopted in November, 1936, urging that the American market be safeguarded for the American farmer and asking for repeal of the favored-nation clause in existing tariff agreements, with provision that all reciprocal treaties must be ratified by the Senate. The Farm Bureau Federation at its more recent convention protested against any reduction in present agricultural tariffs in connection with any reciprocal agreements drawn which would tend to hold or reduce domestic prices on agricultural products below parity. The National Co-operative Milk Producers' Federation, also meeting in November, called attention to the fact that the reciprocal trade pacts as conducted to date have been harmful to dairy farmers.

A recent announcement by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics that larger imports of canned meats were indicated for 1937—although the year just closed apparently (based on unofficial figures) set an all-time record—and an announcement that the increase in the import of

agricultural goods from Canada for the first ten months the reciprocal trade agreement with that country had been in force far exceeded the gain in export of agricultural commodities, are likewise disturbing farmers and live-stock growers.

The Western range cattle producers share the concern expressed by their farmer friends in other sections of the country over the results of the reciprocal trade policy to date. This concern is heightened by the administration drive to bring about ratification of the Argentine sanitary convention, which doubtless is a forerunner to a reciprocal trade agreement with that country, and by an announcement that agreements will soon be negotiated with several other South American countries. Even though the Argentine convention is rejected—as we hope and believe it will be—there is still the serious threat of a reduction in the duty on canned meats. Unfortunately, leading American packers, themselves greatly interested in the production of canned meat in South America, offer no competition or resistance to this influx of South American product. The producers have to fight the battle single-handed. If the Argentine pact is ratified, then there is the threat of reductions on dressed-meat items, far more serious than the canned meat threat.

The next two years will tell the story. If the administration does not change its policy, if it continues to write trade agreements lowering the tariff on agricultural products despite earlier definite promises that no such cuts were to be made, and if the outcome of such a policy proves to be as the farm and live-stock groups now fear, then American agriculture will rise in protest and demand the repeal of the Reciprocal Trade Act. In the meantime we can only continue to object as new agreements are made, and place in the record such information as is available to show our side of the question.

It is probably too much to hope that the administration will soon change its policy; but, as time goes on, if there is a continuance of unfavorable trade balances, of greater increase in imports than in exports, and of a lowering of price levels in this country below those which American producers have a right to expect, then it is not too much to hope that eventually there will be a change. It would be much more gratifying if the change were made voluntarily than otherwise.

An Efficient BAI

PERHAPS NO PROOF OF THE efficiency of the Bureau of Animal Industry is needed; but if it is, we can cite an instance of how our "watcher over the health of herds and flocks" operates when called upon.

Under the Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act

our Secretary of Agriculture is required to notify the Secretary of the Treasury whenever he determines that foot-and-mouth disease exists in any foreign country, so that immediate protection can be set up against importation of animals or meat from such a country. When the disease no longer exists there, the bars are let down. It happened that England recently found herself at the mercy of a foot-and-mouth disease outbreak—eighteen outbreaks between October 11 and November 8, we learn from a London advice. Pursuant to authority under the tariff act, on October 15, four days after the outbreak occurred, official notice was given by the Acting Secretary of Agriculture under Amendment 5 to BAI Order 353, placing Great Britain on the list of countries in which the disease existed. That is fast and commendable work on the part of the department's Bureau of Animal Industry.

It is only regrettable that some officials of our government are at such strenuous efforts to change these sanitary standards and deprive the Bureau of Animal Industry of its present power to keep the dreaded foot-and-mouth disease out of the country.

Imports Summed Up

SECRETARY WALLACE TOLD delegates to the American Farm Bureau convention in California last month that the American farmer must be willing "to accept small increases in imports of certain agricultural products."

We quote Mr. Wallace here, not so much for the news value of his statement, but for the purpose of asking the question, What are small increases in imports? and answering that it can be shown that "small imports" in one camp are big ones in another.

When big runs of Canadian cattle were coming in last year, as in April when about 38,000 of the heavy animals were imported under a reduced duty rate, we were told that after all it was a small matter, just 1 per cent of our total slaughter and it made no difference to us. Of course, we have previously told in our columns how an extra market run can lower and has lowered the price far and wide out of all proportion to the extra numbers involved; and it does not need to be reiterated that whichever way you look at it, every imported animal is a competitor on our market.

But here we point out that these "small imports," when you add them all together, when you reduce the fresh beef and canned beef to terms of live weight, come to a percentage figure that stands on two legs. And lumped together so you will not forget one or the other of the items, imports for the

first ten months of the year were: 374,207 cattle, 3,545,838 pounds of fresh beef, 82,427,156 pounds of canned meat, 1,854,667 pounds of cured beef—850,319 live cattle, or 11 per cent of our average federally inspected slaughter.

Granting that the live imports are a small percentage of our total slaughter, has it not been shown that even that small part has a marked effect on live-stock prices? And when you sum up all the imports on a live-animal basis and find imports of 11 per cent of the annual federally inspected slaughter, you see another marked effect on meat prices.

Railroading Progress

NO ONE WILL SAY THAT THE railroads have not improved their service to passengers traveling on their trains, and it will not be disputed that they made their improvements deliberately, putting forth every effort to regain traffic lost to busses and to the motoring masses.

But that the railroads have always "been on their toes" to do their level best for passengers and shippers is not the case. Time was when improving railroads was a matter for the outsider, if we are to judge by the source of a half dozen or more inventions marking railroad progress.

Automatic car couplers were given to the railroads by a clerk; the air brake was invented by a passenger; the automatic block signal was contributed by a retired textile manufacturer; the electric locomotive was designed by a school teacher; the sleeping car was built by a street contractor; the vestibule buffer was introduced by a physician and sanatorium proprietor; and the refrigerator car was a development of the meat-packing industry.

This is not to imply that all the inventors should have been railroad men, or that all the railroad men should be inventors, but to suggest that in those days initiating railroad improvements seemed to have been left largely to others. They are doing things differently nowadays.

Now that they have seen the wisdom of their new way in the passenger field, surely they will go ahead with similar improvements for their shipping public.

WANT TRADE CHANNELS OPEN

The California Farmers' Union, at its annual convention held in San Jose, California, December 11-12, expressed opposition to any legislation that would restrict the number of trade channels through which live stock may be marketed; it also urged a study by the Federal Trade Commission into the producer-consumer price-gap question.

GOVERNMENT

Report of Soil Saving Service

FARMING PRACTICES THAT CONSERVE soil and water have a directly beneficial bearing on the control of floods and the alleviation of drought conditions, according to the annual report of the chief of the Soil Conservation Service.

To show the effectiveness of these practices in relieving flood and drought conditions, the report cites data obtained by the Soil Conservation Service at its erosion experiment stations throughout the Great Plains. At the experiment stations located near Spur, Texas, and Goodwell, Oklahoma, for example, records show that the average moisture content of the soil was increased approximately 25 per cent by contour tillage and level terracing.

The field activities of the service were considerably enlarged in the fiscal year, according to the report. The number of demonstration projects was increased from 47 to 143, and the area of privately owned land under co-operative agreement increased from approximately 4,000,000 to 7,000,000 acres.

More than 430,000 acres in the soil conservation demonstration projects, including the CCC camp areas, have been strip-cropped, almost 200,000 acres contour-furrowed, and more than 900,000 acres tilled on the contour.

Almost 38,000 miles of terraces and more than 200,000 terrace outlet structures have been completed, and approximately 900,000 small dams built to check run-off and spread of gullies.

In addition to these demonstration activities on private land areas, the service is conducting erosion control work on four large areas of federal and public land in Arizona, New Mexico, and Wyoming.

Agricultural and grazing surveys have been made on 11,660,400 acres, and operations have been planned for complete treatment of important regions in co-operation with the Indian Service, the Forest Service, and the Taylor Grazing Act Administration.

Clippings from the Capitol

Recommendations of the special committee appointed by the President several months ago to study crop insurance are that (1) Congress act early on crop insurance plan for wheat; (2) administration be function of Department of Agriculture; (3) storage and administration cost be borne by government; (4) proposed plan provide for (a) insurance of crop yields only, not of price; (b) farmer's own average representative yield as

coverage basis, (c) insurance of only designated percentage of yield, (d) premiums based on individual and regional loss experience, (e) payment of premiums and indemnity in kind or cash, (f) holding reserves in form of stored commodity for which insurance is written, (g) writing, adjusting, and local administration through local board; (5) premiums be such as actuarial studies indicate necessary; (6) minimum participation be required from region before insurance is sold; (7) storage in safe warehouses; (8) crop insurance research be continued.

* * *

The Farm Tenancy Committee, which held a series of fact-finding regional hearings the first two weeks of January, is expected to give its recommendations before February 1. Reports are that the committee (1) believes in approaching the problem of checking the upward trend in farm tenancy in an experimental way and on limited basis; (2) will recommend a modest appropriation for improving landlord-tenant contractual relations; and (3) is agreed that any plan of government assistance in farm purchases should provide against further mortgaging of land. Nothing like the sum proposed in the Bankhead-Jones bill in the last session—\$1,000,000,000 of loans to tenants for purchases of farms—will be recommended.

* * *

E. Z. Russell, of the animal husbandry division of the Bureau of Animal Industry, retired from service on January 1, 1937. He entered the department in 1917. As his first task he established a pure-bred swine herd at the Beltsville, Maryland, experiment station and broadened the activities there to include breeding, feeding, and management of swine. Under his supervision studies were completed which showed the value of fish meal, formerly a waste product, as a swine feed. This product is now used as a protein feed supplement, not only for swine, but for other live stock. His work also helped in the protection against hog cholera.

* * *

The annual report of Dr. A. G. Black, chief of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, states that investigation in the field of marketing and distribution has shown that about 58 cents out of each dollar spent by consumers for food go to processors, distributors, and transportation agencies. "While this does not condemn the marketing system as inefficient," Dr. Black said, "it points to the need for careful studies of marketing methods and marketing structure."

* * *

Secretary Wallace has ordered the Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company

to cease alleged unfair practice in connection with purchasing meat from packers through brokers in employ of the company. The citation charged that the company concealed the fact that it purchased meat through its own employees, acting as brokers, who later returned to the company money collected as brokerage commissions, deducting only salary and expenses.

Battle for control of the 225,000,000-acre public range is foreseen in the present Congress. The Department of the Interior now controls 142,000,000 acres, and the Department of Agriculture 83,000,000 acres, of the nationally owned portion of the western range area. Each department head concedes that public grazing lands should be under one jurisdiction, but each wants that control.

Revision of the Soil Conservation Act to make federal control permanent and strengthen crop control is on the administration's "desire" list. The plan for state administration has not proved popular with the states, only five having set up administrative machinery; or with the Department of Agriculture, officials of which fear "forty-eight little AAA's" would make production control impossible.

The name of the Santa Barbara National Forest has been changed to Los Padres National Forest, settling an argument among six counties carried on since President Theodore Roosevelt in 1903 renamed the Santa Ynez, Pine Mountain, and Zaca Lake Foreset Reserves, and Santa Barbara National Forest.

Federal grants in aid states for road improvements and elimination of grade crossings have been apportioned in the sum of \$200,000,000 by the Secretary of Agriculture. Apportionments will become available for the fiscal year beginning June 1, 1937.

Government hunters during the past fiscal year captured more animals than at any time in the history of predator control work. The catch was 59,289 coyotes, 1,332 wolves, 5,380 bobcats and lynxes, 305 bears, and 349 mountain lions.

Income, profits, and capital stock tax returns are available, under a recent order, to the auditors studying accounts of wool-handling concerns in connection with the investigation of wool marketing by a special Senate committee.

Request of railroads for continuance of existing emergency freight rate surcharges which expired December 31, 1936, was turned down by a nine-to-two Interstate Commerce Commission vote.

BOY CAN GET ANIMAL PICTURES

Here's a tip for the boy who wants to fix up his room. (Mary L. Sutherland, specialist in parent education and child development, Colorado State College extension service, gives the suggestion in the *Omaha Daily Journal-Stockman*):

Send to the Bureau of Animal Industry, Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., for a free set of its ten live-stock pictures. Each one is about 12 by 8½ inches. Here are the titles of the pictures:

1. Judging Dairy Cows at a Community Picnic.—A dozen or more Jersey cows.
2. Spirit and Strength in Horseflesh.—A purebred Percheron stallion.
3. Mutton in the Making.—Southdown sheep in a pasture setting.
4. No Hunger Strike Here.—Six little pigs, each of a different breed.
5. Feeding Her Flock of White Wyandottes.
6. An Accredited Dairy Herd.—One of the first officially recognized as free from tuberculosis.
7. Angora Goats.
8. Castor, Versatile Morgan Horse.
9. Growing into the Beef Business.—A farm boy and three Hereford calves.
10. They'll Pull You Through.—A team of four mules.

Will C. Barnes

WILL C. BARNES, PIONEER ARIZONA Indian fighter, cattleman, legislator, and author, died unexpectedly in Phoenix, Arizona, on December 17. He was 78 years old.

Widely known throughout the West, Mr. Barnes had for twenty-one years been a member in the Forest Service. In 1881 he was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor "for bravery in action against hostile Apache Indians."

He was born in San Francisco. In 1880 he went to Arizona as a United States Army telegrapher, stationed at Fort Apache. On leaving the army service in 1882, he engaged in the cattle business in the Holbrook (Arizona) country. He served in the territorial legislature as a representative from Apache County. Subsequently he became chairman of the Arizona Live Stock Sanitary Board. Moving to New Mexico, he became a member of the New Mexico legislature and was appointed to the New Mexico live-stock board. He joined the Forest Service in 1907.

Mr. Barnes was author of several books and wrote many articles for magazines.

He is survived by his wife, Edith Talbot Barnes.

How Much Is It Worth?

- to get word to the doctor in case of sudden illness or accident!
- to summon help quickly when fire breaks out!
- to call the veterinarian for sick or injured stock!
- to arrange parties, get-togethers of all kinds and make plans for meetings, church affairs, etc.!
- to inquire about and compare market prices!
- to have the comfort of knowing that the telephone is always there; ready to help in every emergency and offer its conveniences at any time of the day or night!

**A telephone costs but a few cents a day.
Why not get in touch with us now and order
yours connected?**

**The Mountain States
Telephone & Telegraph Co.**

MARKETS

Less Beef and More Pork in 1937

BY JAMES E. POOLE

LIVE-STOCK MARKETS EXHIBIT signs of running amuck, especially in the case of cattle. In that branch of the trade, some grades are fluctuating as much as \$1 per cwt. in a single week, taxing the ingenuity of shippers, perennially imbued with anxiety to hit the high spots. Other branches of the market are less volatile, although wobbly. Killers are charting a close-to-shore course, buyers have explicit instructions to "save the house a dollar at every opportunity," and henceforth strenuous effort will be made to keep down cost on the hooks. So far no protest has come from meat consuming circles, where purchasing power is surprisingly strong, having been well sustained through the holiday poultry season. If the Argentine treaty is a potential menace to the trade, no one is showing serious concern. Each session of the live-stock market is snappy as prices gradually reach altitudes that appeared impossible during the depression. Top cattle are headed toward \$14 per cwt., top hogs on their way to \$12, and lambs to \$11.

Distributive trade has a decidedly healthy undertone, killers have no accumulation worth speculating on, and each week's meat production, with the exception of a miniature tonnage diverted into storage channels because the investment is justified, promptly goes into the voracious maw of the consuming public.

On every short run at the live-stock markets, packers buy for numbers, or tonnage, which are synonymous terms.

Both the situation and the prospect are decidedly bullish.

Rise Rigged Into Boom

Delirious trade reporters persistently embellish their columns with hysteria over rising prices. The obvious purpose is to convince the public that meat production is highly profitable. They appear to be obsessed with a boom complex, manifested in flamboyant headlines. This publicity policy exerts a repressive influence on consumption, as the average person of either sex is congenitally disposed to back away from increasing cost, especially in the case of food. A top load of cattle, now costing around \$13 per cwt., stimulates the reportorial anvil chorus to the apotheosis of ecstasy, although a single package claims the money. If a few more cattle of that type were available, prices would melt away in the same fashion as the hired man tucks a plate of hot biscuit into his capacious jaws.

Few feeders are interested in that type, the bulk of current steer offering costing killers anywhere from \$10 to \$12 per cwt., which contrasts with a \$7.50 to \$8.50 trade early in the year when \$9 was out on the limb. This does not escape trade publicists who theorize that such an appreciation naturally puts beef makers on the shady side of Easy Street, ignoring the advancing, if not onerous, cost of feed which puts a crimp in profit margins, which are more apparent than real.

The feeder is having trouble wrestling with mounting expense and worrying over gains. However, the prospect from his viewpoint is decidedly more favorable than at any time during the past five years. What he needs in the present emergency is a reasonable degree of stability.

Bovines Show Stiff Backbone

Following the turn of the year, prices of all cattle, from choice kosher bullocks to hat-rack cows retired from dairy service, showed a decidedly stiff backbone. Supply, heavy during the last quarter of 1936, diminished, creating harder picking for killers. Low-grade and half-fat steers were favorites, killers' immediate needs forcing them to cheat feeders out of their legitimate portion of the daily crop. This condition will be accentuated as the season works along, as current demand for the cheaper grades of beef is constantly urgent; coarse cuts go over the retailers' counter with alacrity; and the public is buying processed, or delicatessen,

meats in unprecedented quantity. With this broad outlet assured, feeders need have no serious concern over maintenance of present prices, further appreciation being logical. Hundreds of thousands of cattle have been dislodged from feeders' hands prematurely, lacking weight and dressing quality, for the reason that they showed a satisfactory profit margin and had reached a stage of development where maintenance cut a figure. This should, and undoubtedly will, develop scarcity of long-fed steers late in the winter, as feeders have no incentive to run into weight, which is expensive.

Carrying Cattle Costs Cash

Already feeders are resorting to heroic measures to carry cattle. In many sections of the Corn Belt the residue of the short 1936 crop of corn is at the dwindling stage, necessitating expenditure for substitutes. In Iowa low-grade wheat, oats, and barley have been utilized satisfactorily, as much of last year's corn was deficient in feeding value. This condition has been largely responsible for premature dislodgment of cattle, as the average farmer feeder is always reluctant to make feed expenditures. There is ample roughage, including silage; but without concentrates, making steers decently fat is impossible.

In sections where the 1936 corn crop was a failure, few cattle were installed last year; where half a crop was garnered, there is a pronounced tendency to unload, which may keep the market well supplied, especially with respect to numbers during January and February. Prospective conditions are exactly the reverse of the corresponding period of 1936 when feed was cheap and feeders carried cattle along on the theory that higher prices were in the offing, which proved to be sound judgment.

Fewer Fat Cattle

Prospective fat-cattle supply during 1937 elicits diversified opinion, but concern in beef manufacturing circles is ill-concealed. An official estimate indicating a 20 per cent decrease compared with a year ago is in circulation, the shrinkage being in territory west of the Missouri River where drought was most severe. Western Iowa is included in this area, and undoubtedly will be short of its normal quota of fat steers. East of Chicago, especially the Indiana-Ohio line, and south of the Ohio River, cattle feeding is probably on a larger scale than a year ago, but this delegation will reach the market late, Ohio, Indiana, and Kentucky having switched to calves and yearlings. Pennsylvania has more cattle than last year, feed is abundant, and the movement from Lancaster and adjacent counties will be late. Texas reports excellent physical conditions, insuring an early run of beef from that quarter.

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Any shortage of fat cattle will be most conspicuous along the chain of Missouri River terminal markets and the crossroads barter points scattered over the Great Plains where volume is steadily increasing, attracting both speculators and regular buyers. Possibly a veritable scramble may develop as the season works along.

Runaway Markets to Rule

Price stability is not to be expected under these supply conditions. A series of runaway markets with intervals of semi-demoralization will be logical. Between now and April, weather markets will be in evidence and, as the trade is operating on short supplies, violent fluctuations will be the order of the day. When cattle supply is constantly excessive and carcasses accumulate on the hang-rail, the whole trade stagnates, despite low prices. Nowadays all possibility of congestion is eliminated; an accumulation of about one pound per capita in packers' freezers means nothing, as it comprises low-grade product that will disappear without making a ripple on the market surface during the next ninety days. During that period a limited supply of female cattle will get a cordial reception at killers' hands, as there is always a reliable demand for low-grade beef to satisfy what is known vernacularly as "cheap trade." Winter feeding of cows is a lost art, as cost of putting on gains is prohibitive. The usual number of heifer calves has gone into feeders' hands to reach the market early in the season and earn good money.

Beef Needs Bumper Corn Crop

What the beef-making industry needs in the worst way is at least one bumper crop of corn; yet the economists are deliberately planning further curtailment of acreage. "Dollar corn" may work to the advantage of tenant grain farmers, but is catastrophic so far as the cattle industry is concerned. Current imports of corn attest this fact and should discourage further acreage restriction. Late in December, owing to the maritime strike, which delayed unloading ocean steamers, 1,500,000 bushels of corn were rotting in the holds of vessels carrying approximately 1,000 carloads of South American grain to the Pacific coast. Southern and eastern ports also handled enormous quantities of foreign grain, every bushel of which represented money sent elsewhere that under normal domestic production conditions would have meant increased American farm income.

When corncribs can be filled, the western cattleman may expect renewal of interest in what he has to sell. The planned scarcity doctrine is economic heresy; those who prate about an "ever-normal granary," pointing to the success of Joseph of Biblical fame in support of their logic, ignore the fact that

Joseph had the advantage of a divine revelation. With the shovel scarping the floors of half the corncribs in the Belt, only a bumper crop will afford a remedy.

More Foreign Meat

Canada is again in the domestic cattle market with the advance guard of its 1937 quota, which will be filled. However, the Canuck contribution to our meat supply cannot be measured by the live cattle movement, as processors in the Dominion are constantly contributing a heavy poundage.

What concerns the trade more than Canadian influence on prices is potential Argentine competition. Meat imports last year were of impressive volume. Compared with 1934 the percentage of gain, figured on a ten-month basis, was 143 per cent in the case of beef and veal; 2,440,000 per cent in pork. Even without an infliction of fresh or chilled South American meat on the domestic grower, the 1936 volume, consisting largely of South American canned meat, European cooked pork, and Canadian fresh meat, will be repeated. Every pound of these imports was readily absorbed on a rising domestic live-stock market.

Predicting Pact Outcome Futile

It is expected that an attempt will be made soon after the Senate convenes to secure ratification of the Argentine "convention." Executive approval has been a fact for several months, and if the Senate O. K. is attached, Argentine packers will lose no time in contracting steamer space, presumably to New York, at the outset; later, to other Atlantic seaboard points, from whence product will be distributed locally and over the hinterland.

Such profound mystery has enveloped the whole proceeding that prediction as to what may happen would be futile, but nobody in the trade entertains the idea that the convention was connived solely for the purpose of creating a North American outlet for Patagonian mutton, for which there never has been a reliable market hereabouts. Some twenty years back a Chicago packer operating a sheep slaughter plant in Argentina made the costly experiment of putting several thousand carcasses of lamb and mutton into this market. It was peddled industriously as far west as Denver, and, as the consuming public turned it down with both thumbs, free distribution to restaurants was resorted to—without success. At present the domestic lamb market is in far from prosperous condition, so that the moment is not opportune for another similar experiment.

Ratification Means Risks

Declaration that the convention is to apply only to areas in Argentina declared free of disease carries the impli-

cation that a clean bill-of-health for the entire country is not claimed. Recent outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease attributable to Argentine imports are suggestive of trouble. British scientists contend that fresh or chilled meat carries the germ of the disease in active form for a period of seventy-six days, and the additional claim is made that the disease is latent in South America, acquiring activity in virgin soil. In any event, risk is apparent, and, as every outbreak in this country has been directly traceable to some South American country, even disturbance of the exclusion bar is doubtful judgment. If British experience is worth anything and approval of the convention by the Senate results in admission of chilled or "soft" meat from

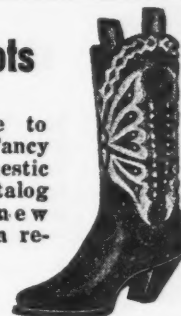
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Argentina proper, an early outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in this country may be expected.

Pork Is Beef's Competitor

Prospective hog supply is of major importance to the cattle raiser, for the reason that pork is his major competitor. That the swine industry is at the expansion stage of the production cycle will not be disputed. Slaughter figures for 1936 indicate this trend, which will be more pronounced as time works along, provided, of course, a semi-famine in corn is remedied.

Hog prices have been gradually advancing until an \$11 average cost market at Chicago is possible. Domestic production of pork has been running so far behind trade requirements that over 35,000,000 pounds were imported in 1936, compared with about 8,000,000 pounds in 1935 and about 2,500,000 in 1934. Canada and Poland are the major contributors, Polish hams having gained an enviable reputation. Owing to corn scarcity, the 1936 spring pig crop was cashed early, increasing slaughter substantially and swelling stocks of both meat and lard, although packers consider every pound of hog product in their cellars good property. By the turn of the year, the spring pig crop of 1936 had been closely garnered and the fall-farrowed crop was on its way to the butcher with all possible celerity.

Development of a pork surplus will be tardy. As profitable prices stimulate production, effort is being made in that direction, heralding another substantial increase in slaughter this year. The greatest ratio of increase since the low level was uncovered has been in the South Atlantic states, the stamping ground of the "razzerback" for many years. Leaving the historic porcine massacre of 1934 out of the discussion, drought has decimated the swine breeding herds of the country to an extent not generally understood. This applies particularly to the Great Plains region, and, despite the widely advertised

fecundity of the species, time will be needed to restore normalcy. Probably the gigantic and temporarily successful efforts by packers, carriers, and stockyard interests to "grow more hogs," in the plains country will never be repeated. Corn-crop impairment in 1936 prompted free marketing of sows and to that extent curbed breeding expansion.

An official estimate detects an increase of 6 per cent in the fall pig crop of 1936 over that of 1935, an increase of about 20 per cent in the combined spring and fall crop, and a decrease of 5 per cent in the number of sows bred to farrow during the January-to-June period of 1937.

Washington Won't Tax Swine

Whatever happens to the swine industry, reimposition of the processing tax is outside the range of possibility, as Washington has definitely decided that the most effective regulation of pork production is through control of the corn crop. A perennial dispute over disposition of unpaid processing taxes by packers is in progress, with varying results, in the courts. The latest decision was by Federal Judge W. H. Atwell, who denied the plea of the Pinckney Packing Company, of Amarillo, for an injunction to restrain collection of the tax, but expressing an opinion that the government cannot legally collect a tax under a law already declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court. The "windfall" dispute, legacy of the processing tax nightmare, promises to go into history as a *cause celebre* of the same character as Dickens' interminable chancery case, "Jarndyce and Jarndyce."

Sheep Camp Happier

Gloom, coagulated for months in the sheep camp, was partly dispelled as the trade worked into January. A \$10 quotation for fat lambs was established, the wool market perked up, and an invalid dressed market was able to look around. Sheep and lamb slaughter has been heavy, establishing an all-time record

late in 1936, and for some reason not definitely determined the dressed market has run into a "spot of bother," to use English vernacular.

Unlike pork, a temporary surplus of lamb cannot be sent to the cellar or be reduced to edible fat, necessitating "taking the market" for current production. As the Atlantic seaboard is the ultimate destination of a temporary excess, killers have no alternative but to take any realizable price.

If a winter lamb market of \$10 to \$11 per cwt. can be maintained, feeders will have an inning; but during November and December they literally wallowed in red ink at the accounting stage, the result being dislodgment of stock that would otherwise still figure in the winter and spring supply. This demoralization was attributable at least in part to a huge turkey surplus, part of which was displayed on a bargain counter, the remainder sent to the freezer to be exhumed next summer. Poultry is always a keen competitor of ovine product, and in this instance the competition was serious.

Prospects Epitomized

1. The 1937 prospect is for sharply curtailed beef supplies, a slight increase in pork production, and about the same number of lambs as in 1936.

2. Assuming that consumption is maintained at present volume and that the purchasing capacity of the masses is not impaired, prices will be maintained.

3. Whatever influence Canadian competition exerts has already been determined; an obscure South American prospect must be clarified before even speculation is possible.

4. A statement that meat producers of the United States have dropped several laps behind consumers' requirements with their output will not be seriously disputed.

5. The industry is at the inception of a recuperation stage, although the much-touted cycle theory is discredited by freak meteorological developments. To reiterate a stale axiom, "The most important factor is the weather."

HIDES

Hide quotations at Chicago on January 5 are reported as follows: Packer hides—heavy native steer, 16 to 16½ cents; light, 14½; heavy native cow, 14 to 14½; light, 14 to 14½; light Texas steer, 14 to 14½; butt-branded steer, 16 to 16½; branded cow, 13¾ to 14¼; Colorado steer, 15½ to 16; native bull, 11½; calfskins—packer kipskins, 14 to 17½; packer calfskins, 24 to 26½; country hides—all weights, 11 to 11½; extremes, 13; branded, 8½; buffs, 11¾ to 12; bull, 7½ to 7¾; horse hides—No. 1, \$2.50 to \$2.75; No. 2, \$1.50 to \$2; sheep pelts—full wool, \$1.50 to \$2; lamb pelts—full wool, \$1.25 to \$1.75; dry pelts, 21 to 22 cents per pound.

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Meat Holdings

Commodity in Lbs. (000 omitted)	Dec. 1 1936	Dec. 1 1935	Five-Yr. Aver.
Frozen beef.....	121,340	71,657	56,132
Cured beef*.....	31,149	19,507	17,730
Lamb and mutton..	8,420	2,661	3,025
Frozen pork.....	141,366	36,048	81,558
Dry salt pork*.....	41,684	30,984	55,917
Pickled pork*.....	273,379	186,177	203,532
Miscellaneous.....	94,395	63,284	63,187
Total meats.....	711,733	410,318	571,081
Lard.....	106,927	37,906	64,480
Frozen poultry.....	149,952	86,098	91,848
Creamery butter.....	88,903	71,948	74,119
Eggs (case equiv.)..	3,648	4,996	4,641

*Cured or in process of cure.

Live Stock at Stock Yards

	November 1936	November 1935	First 11 Months 1936	First 11 Months 1935
RECEIPTS—				
Cattle*.....	1,541	1,450	14,451	13,714
Calves.....	635	578	6,318	6,081
Hogs.....	3,148	1,671	23,254	17,526
Sheep.....	2,149	1,732	22,891	23,979
TOTAL SHIPMENTS†—				
Cattle*.....	655	690	5,684	5,790
Calves.....	239	211	2,084	1,909
Hogs.....	900	526	7,128	5,419
Sheep.....	1,083	822	11,514	12,007
STOCKER AND FEEDER SHIPMENTS—				
Cattle*.....	352	375	2,418	2,685
Calves.....	97	70	513	466
Hogs.....	41	24	550	298
Sheep.....	367	335	2,685	2,882
FEDERAL INSPECTION SLAUGHTER—				
Cattle*.....	988	956	9,985	8,774
Calves.....	477	480	5,576	5,199
Hogs.....	4,292	2,422	31,374	23,183
Sheep.....	1,544	1,407	15,643	16,276

Three ciphers omitted. Receipts and shipments are for sixty-nine markets.

*Exclusive of calves.

†Includes stockers and feeders.

‡Includes animals purchased for FSRC.

Chicago Prices

	Jan. 4, 1937	Dec. 1, 1936	Jan. 1, 1936
LIVE STOCK			
SLTR. STEERS (1,100-1,500 lb):			
Choice.....	\$11.25-13.00	\$10.00-12.00	\$12.00-13.50
Good.....	10.00-11.50	9.00-11.00	9.25-12.50
SLTR. STEERS (900-1,100 lb):			
Choice.....	11.75-13.00	11.00-12.00	11.50-13.25
Good.....	10.00-11.75	9.25-11.00	9.00-12.00
SLTR. STEERS (900 lb up):			
Med.....	8.00-10.00	7.25- 9.25	7.00- 9.00
FED YOUNG STEERS:			
Good-Ch.....	10.00-12.75	9.25-12.00	8.75-12.00
HEIFERS:			
Good-Ch.....	7.75-12.50	8.25-12.00	8.00-10.50
COWS:			
Good.....	5.75- 6.75	5.50- 6.50	5.75- 7.00
CALVES:			
Good-Ch.....	6.00- 8.50	5.50- 8.50	7.00-10.00
FEEDERS AND STOCKERS:			
Good-Ch.....	6.75- 8.50	6.25- 8.50	7.25- 8.50
Com.-Med.....	5.50- 6.75	5.00- 6.50	5.25- 7.50
HOGS:			
Med. Wts.....	10.40-10.65	9.40-10.00	9.00- 9.60
LAMBS:			
Good-Ch.....	9.50-10.10	8.25- 9.25	10.50-11.25
EWES:			
Good-Ch.....	4.00- 5.25	3.50- 4.65	4.25- 5.50

WESTERN DRESSED MEATS

		Jan. 3, 1936
STEER (700 lb up):		
Choice.....	\$15.50-16.50	\$14.50-16.00
Good.....	14.00-15.50	12.50-14.50
STEER (500-700 lb):		
Choice.....	16.00-18.00	15.50-17.50
Good.....	14.00-17.00	12.50-16.00
YEARLING STEER:		
Choice.....	17.50-18.50	16.50-18.00
Good.....	14.00-17.50	13.00-16.50
COW:		
Good.....	10.00-11.00	9.00- 9.50
VEAL:		
Choice.....	15.00-16.00	14.00-15.00
Good.....	14.00-15.00	12.50-14.00
LAMB:		
Choice.....	12.50-15.00	12.00-15.00
Good.....	12.00-14.00	11.50-14.00
MUTTON:		
Good.....	7.00- 8.00	6.50- 8.00
PORK LOINS:		
8-12 lb. Av.....	20.50-22.50	16.00-18.00
		21.00-22.50

Live Stock and Meat Situation

PRICE INCREASES AT WHOLESALE IN BEEF and veal, continued declines in most grades of dressed lamb, increases toward the end of the month in pork loins, and better prices for most classes of live stock featured the live-stock and meat trade during December, according to a review by the Institute of American Meat Packers.

Twenty-five per cent more meat and lard was produced than during the month a year ago, it is estimated. Although pork production was up an estimated 50 per cent over December last year, it was 5 to 10 per cent less than is considered normal for the month, and lard production, although 45 per cent greater than last year, was 40 per cent smaller than the 1929-33 average for the month. Production of beef and veal was only slightly more than during December last year.

Cattle and Beef

Receipts of cattle, although slightly greater than during December a year ago, were less than in November. Marketings decreased steadily throughout the month, the decrease being particularly felt in cows and heavy, highly finished steers. Prices of most grades advanced steadily during the latter half.

Wholesale prices of fresh beef rose slowly as receipts fell off, winding up at the close somewhat advanced over beginning prices.

Vealers and calves marketed were slightly greater in number than marketings of a year ago and November. Closing prices for most grades were slightly above those at the opening of the month. Wholesale fresh beef prices came in for a substantial rise during the month.

Pork and Swine

Hogs marketed were about 60 to 65 per cent greater in number than marketings of December, 1935. An increased volume of fresh pork moved into consumption at relatively low prices. Hog prices fluctuated, but the trend was steadily upward. Following usual de-

crease in receipts during the holidays, prices moved sharply higher, although a slight recession took place the last few days of the month.

Most meat packing companies usually increase their storage holdings at this time of year, and at the close of December pork in storage was somewhat greater than November's holdings.

Sheep and Lambs

Sheep and lamb receipts were only slightly greater than in December last year but considerably less than during November. Prices were higher at the close than at the opening. Demand for dressed lamb was unsatisfactory, and wholesale prices of the lighter weights declined slightly. Prices of heavier weights remained about the same. Small increases occurred in the wholesale prices of mutton.

FEEDSTUFFS

On January 11 cottonseed cake and meal was quoted at \$36.40 a ton, f.o.b. Texas points. Omaha hay prices on January 6 were as follows: alfalfa—choice leafy, \$20.50; No. 1, \$18 to \$19; standard leafy, \$16.50 to \$17; standard, \$16; No. 2, \$15 to \$16; No. 3, \$13.50 to \$14; upland prairie—No. 1, \$15.50 to \$16.50; No. 2, \$14.50 to \$15.50; No. 3, \$13 to \$14; midland prairie—No. 1, \$14.50 to \$15; No. 2, \$13 to \$13.50; mixed hay—No. 1, \$15.50 to \$16; No. 2, \$14 to \$14.50; No. 3, \$13.50 to \$14; straw—oats, \$7; wheat, \$6.

LEAFLET SUMMARIZES FUR LAWS

A leaflet entitled "Abstract of Fur Laws, 1936-37," just issued by the Biological Survey, lists the open seasons of the states for taking fur animals, license requirements for trappers and hunters, and laws regarding the possession, sale, and shipment of fur animals or parts of the animals. Fur laws of Alaska and the Canadian provinces also are summarized. Copies of the leaflet, called BS-68, "Abstract of Fur Laws, 1936-37," may be obtained from the Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.

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FOREIGN

Live Stock in England

BY JOSEPH RAYMOND

[Special Correspondence to The Producer]

LONDON, December 15, 1936.

1936—Record Year for Stock Exports

PEDIGREE STOCK BREEDERS have experienced the heaviest demand from overseas since 1925, and buyers from the United States have been particularly active. George K. Bailey, of Wickwire Farm, Maryland, has just concluded a number of selections for his Aberdeen-Angus herd, his purchases including a bull and two heifers from Colonel Norman Kennedy and two heifers from James Beddie, of Strichen, Scotland. Pedigree sheep exports have also been a record, over 2,500 rams and ewes having been purchased by a Russian commission. Right through the year here has been a remarkable demand for Southdown sheep to go overseas, and 37 pedigree rams and 116 ewes of the breed have been sold since July 1 for export. Since the commencement of the year 329 Southdowns have been sold for export, creating a record, the total comparing with 246, the next highest, in 1923. Eight rams and six ewes have been shipped to the United States.

Scottish Breeders Organize

An interesting development has taken place in regard to Scottish Shorthorns, four organizations of Scottish Shorthorn breeders having combined to form a new company, with articles of association, to promote the interests of the

breed in Scotland. The Shorthorn Society has assured the new organization of its co-operation. The new company, which will be known as the Scottish Shorthorn Breeders' Association, has no share capital, and for the purpose of securing due representation upon the board of directors the voting members will be divided into three classes, according to the location of their respective herds. Those responsible for the formation of the new organization include such well-known breeders for export as Captain John M'Gillivray, James Durno, W. B. Robertson, James Piper, William McNair Snadden, John Duthie Webster, J. Cameron, Duncan M'Callum Stewart, and C. Crombie. The formation of the company is a practical answer to the criticism that beef producers, as such, had no independent representative organization to direct their efforts to enable the home industry to take full advantage of the increased subsidy payments for "quality" cattle made possible by the terms of the new trade agreement between Great Britain and the Argentine.

Argentina—United Kingdom Agreement

The agreement, which came into force on November 20 and will remain in operation for three years, provides for a levy of $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per pound on chilled beef, $\frac{3}{4}$ d. on frozen beef, and corresponding duties (20 per cent *ad valorem*) on other beef from Argentina and other foreign sources. The Argentine will co-operate with the British government in calling an international conference on meat to apportion the supply to Great

Britain. This meeting will follow the coming Empire Conference at which the position of the Dominion meat industries will be considered. As at present, mutton, lamb, and pork are to be duty free. It is anticipated that the levy will provide £3,000,000 of the £5,000,000 subsidy to be paid to the home producers, leaving £2,000,000 to be found by the taxpayers. Mutton and lamb imports in 1937 will not be reduced below 886,000 cwt., which is 65 per cent of the "Ottawa year standard," and for 1938 the imports may not be cut below 749,400 cwt., no figures having yet been agreed upon for 1939. Argentine shipments of chilled beef can be reduced by amounts rising by stages of not more than 2 per cent of the 1935 figures in any year, up to a maximum of 5 per cent of the 1935 figures in the third year of the agreement. Farmers have criticized the terms of the agreement on the ground that their hands are tied for another three years, during which it will not be possible to increase the moderate duties on foreign beef or to impose any duties on mutton, lamb, or pork. They also urge that the duty on foreign chilled beef should have been $1\frac{1}{4}$ d. per pound, with a duty of $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per pound on beef imported from Empire sources.

"Standstill" Orders Depressing

Outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease in the Midlands and the northern counties have had a serious effect upon Christmas beef prices, and several of the leading fat-stock shows have had to be canceled. At the major events which have already taken place, Aberdeen-Angus and Angus-Shorthorn crossbreds have carried off all the championship honors. In the meantime, with "standstill" orders operating in the vicinity of Bakewell and Matlock in Derbyshire, in Nottinghamshire, Flintshire, Cornwall, Cheshire, and parts of Yorkshire, the sale-yards are deserted and buyers are operating very nervously. Quotations for all fat stock are naturally higher than they were a month or so ago, but this upward trend is merely seasonal, and compared with the price level obtaining at the same period of last year values for fattened stock are not satisfactory. The quality of the fat cattle put under the hammer shows great improvement, and top quality Shorthorns, Angus, and crossbreds are fetching from \$8.50 to \$10.75 per live cwt., with second quality quoted at \$7.40 to \$8 per cwt. Fair offerings of store cattle are in good condition, with values steady and averaging \$5.75 to \$7 per live cwt. Veal calves are in keen request at 15 to 26 cents per pound.

Fair pennings of fat sheep are in active demand, Downs crossbreds being quoted at 18 to 25 cents per pound, other breeds making from 10 to 24 cents. Supplies of fat lambs are confined to Scotch Hill sorts, and quotations run from 18 to 26 cents, with buyers com-

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petitive. The few store sheep on offer are clearing readily at firm values.

Pig Scheme May Collapse

Heavy supplies of fat pigs are meeting a brisk inquiry and easy clearances are being made at high prices. This is mainly due to deliveries of contract pigs under the pigs marketing scheme being short, the curers having to buy in the open market at values amounting to as much as 50 cents per score over the fixed contract price for the month, which is \$2.90 per score. The Conservative Parliamentary Agricultural Committee has expressed concern that the number of pigs contracted for with the Pigs Marketing Board for the 1937 contract has so far fallen considerably short of the requisite total of 2,200,000, the reported shortage being 400,000. The board has emphasized that unless the requisite number is attained, a grave position will arise as to the future of the pigs marketing scheme and the continuance of the restrictions upon imports of foreign bacon, the curers having threatened to declare the 1937 contract void. Porkers are a good trade, making from \$4 to \$4.75 per score. Store pigs are being marketed in good supply, all classes being wanted and selling freely, the majority of price changes being upward.

Australian Live Stock

BY A. C. MILLS

[Special Correspondence to The Producer]

MELBOURNE, November 12, 1936.

OFFICIAL RETURNS LATELY published indicate that losses of cattle in Queensland during the recent drought were not so heavy as anticipated at the time. The total of all classes and ages of cattle in the state on January 1, 1936, is shown to have been 6,033,000, compared with 6,053,000 at the beginning of 1935 and 5,784,000 on January 1, 1934. With sheep, however, there has been quite a different story, numbers dropping from 21,574,000 in 1935 to 18,060,000 at the commencement of 1936. While it is true that the sheep country was affected more by the long dry spell than the cattle territory, it is also evident that the larger stock were better able to stand up to the adverse conditions.

Apart from actual drought losses there has, of course, been the loss of natural increase. What that would be under normal conditions is impossible to say definitely, but after making allowances for slaughtering for home consumption and the beef export trade, it is fairly safe to assume that, had there been no drought, cattle numbers would have increased by at least 200,000 instead of dropping 20,000 during 1935.

Drought Hits Export Trade

Another aspect of the drought is its aftereffect on beef exports. Generally speaking, the winter of 1936 was very favorable to fattening cattle, yet on more than one occasion packers found it impossible to secure cattle of finish suitable for the chiller trade. Freezers four to five years old have been in plenty, but well-finished chillers of two and a half to three years have been remarkably scarce. This apparently was due to the severe check received by the young steers at between eighteen months and two years of age.

So far as the north is concerned, it is likely the same thing will happen again after the next big drought, if there is no meanwhile improvement in prices. It is doubtful if more than \$5 a hundred pounds, delivered at packing plants on the coast, was paid for the very best cattle in north Queensland last winter. The average for all slaughter types was probably less than \$4.30 per hundred. Those rates, if they covered costs of production, which is very doubtful, certainly allowed no margin for placing cattle holdings in a better state to face dry conditions. Subdivisions of paddocks, the provision of more watering facilities, and pasture improvement represent expenses which cannot adequately be met with beef at present values. Reserves of finances have in most instances been swallowed up by the drought.

No Government Aid

The extraordinary part of it all is that although governments recognize this they have done nothing tangible to assist the cattle industry. After years of adverse seasons and low prices the majority of breeders in the back coun-

try have been reduced to something approaching penury, with their financial reserves eaten up in the effort to save their stock. Time and again both federal and state governments have been appealed to for concessions in respect to rentals, tenures, taxation, and freights, most of which are being maintained at the level to which they were raised in boom times, when even then they were unjustifiably high.

The federal government initiated an inquiry into the cattle industry more than a year ago, and though the report favored assistance being given in the shape of a small export subsidy, nothing has been done. The same applies to state government. It appointed a commissioner to investigate the claims of graziers last year. The report has been in government's hands for months, and here again procrastination holds sway.

The beef export season in the north has finished. The packing plants had a fair killing, but, as already mentioned, prices offered for cattle were not high. The central and south Queensland factories are still handling moderate tallies, and values there are on a somewhat more remunerative level. Up to \$6.25 a hundred pounds, delivered, cold weights, is being paid for the few chiller type steers available at southern plants, and from \$5.30 to \$5.50 for freezers. A flat buying rate of \$5.75 a hundred prevails for first-grade cattle in the central division, while \$5 is being paid for seconds.

Purebreds Sell Well

A notable sale of ten Aberdeen-Angus bulls imported by Wayland Hopley Farms, Inc., of Atlantic, Iowa, was held in New Zealand toward the close of September. Competition throughout the auction was particularly keen and the

Traders Crave Action

THE Argentine Sanitary Convention will be most difficult to enforce because traders crave action. They could easily bootleg diseased product into United States export channels and thereby subject our entire industry to the ravages of the dreaded foot-and-mouth disease.

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National Live Stock Marketing Association

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Chicago, Illinois

high general average of 380 guineas (say \$1,900) was obtained, which must have been satisfactory to all concerned.

Top price of 675 guineas (\$3,375) was paid for Quality Bar 483389, an outstanding calf aged just over eighteen months. Black Cap Echo Quality 470452 fetched 600 guineas (\$3,000), and Epistos Barmar 482698, 500 guineas (\$2,500). The latter bull was sired by Barmar Quality, who was brought to New Zealand last year. Quality Barmar 475262, an exceptionally thick young bull very short in the legs, realized 400 guineas (\$2,000), and Eston Bar 483391, another attractive animal, the same price. Eric Bar 2nd 482699 sold at 350 guineas (\$1,750), and Barmar Escort 482702 at 330 guineas (\$1,650). The other three ranged from 180 (\$900) to 210 (\$1,050) guineas.

In connection with the foregoing it is interesting to note that at sales of locally bred Aberdeen-Angus cattle, several auctions of which were held in New Zealand last month, the top price was 201 guineas (\$1,005). Four two-year-old bulls were sold at 200 guineas each (\$1,000), and quite a number at prices ranging from 100 (\$500) to 200 (\$1,000) guineas.

Germany's Supply of Fats Low

TO CONSERVE HER DWINDLING SUPPLY of fats, Germany is now rationing butter, lard, and other fats to her population under the most drastic food regulations since the World War. Each family will be allowed to purchase lard, butter, margarine, cooking oil, and tallow only upon displaying a ration card.

Further efforts to increase supplies of fats in that country are indicated in a report by the Department of Commerce that "grease traps" in drain pipes will be used to recover waste fats. A German specialist estimates that 55,000,000 to 65,000,000 pounds of fats can be recovered for industrial uses.

In commenting upon Germany's fats crisis, A. L. Ward, educational service director of the National Cottonseed Products Association, suggests that "the United States can avoid the possibility of such a situation by giving American cotton growers, beef producers, dairy-men, peanut and soy-bean growers, and other fats-and-oils producers an equal

opportunity in the American market," adding that "a major step in the encouragement of American fats-and-oils production is the modification of present restrictions on the sale of foods made 100 per cent of domestic products."

World Will Grow More Wheat

A WORLD TREND TOWARD LARGER WHEAT production in response to the lowest world wheat supply in ten years was noted by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics in its December summary of the wheat situation.

The United States has sown the largest acreage of winter wheat on record—more than 57,000,000 acres. Canadian fall wheat seedings total 702,000 acres, compared with 585,000 acres in 1935—an increase of 20 per cent. At the same time, increased plantings in the Danube countries, the British Isles, India, and the Soviet Union are reported. The lower world supplies of wheat in the face of increased world demand have resulted in the highest world prices since 1928.

The bureau pointed out that there exists the definite possibility of United States producing a wheat crop in excess of domestic needs next summer, in which event prices are likely to decline toward an export basis.

From the Foreign Field

A resolution to amend the British levy-subsidy scheme for cattle has been presented to the new Minister of Agriculture asking that (1) standard price for standard quality beef be fixed at not less than 48 shillings per live hundred-weight; (2) the whole proceeds of import duties be allocated to live-stock fund; (3) difference, if any, needed to supply deficiency between market price and standard price be made good by treasury; (4) import duties be imposed as soon as possible on meat from Dominions, subject to an Imperial preference.

The Chinese government has recently passed regulations providing for freer movement of foodstuffs within the country. The "likin" system (provincial and military irregular taxation on goods in transit) formerly was common in China,

but was officially abolished in 1930. Certain provinces, however, continued from time to time to levy taxes on shipments of some agricultural products under pretext of preventing a food shortage. The new regulations are expected to encourage greater exchange of foodstuffs within the country.

Cotton production in India for the 1936-37 season is placed at 4,584,000 bales of 478 pounds each, as compared with final estimate of 4,793,000 bales for the 1935-36 crop. In northern Brazil the 1936 cotton crop estimate is for a yield of approximately 605,000 bales of 478 pounds, representing a reduction of 26 per cent from the 819,000 bales harvested there in 1935. Cotton production in Egypt is placed at 2,002,000 bales of 478 pounds, compared with 1,750,000 bales reported at this time last year.

Eighteen farms within Paris. So reads the headline of a *United Press* dispatch, which explains that they are real farms, each replete with a six-o'clock farmer and his wife going about their chores, cleaning out the stables, milking the cows, and putting the eggs in their boxes for market. One of the farms is in the smoke-grimed industrial center of Belleville, where factories and towering chimneys reign supreme. No broad meadows, or fields of grains, but genuine farms, none the less.

Czechoslovakia is the second country—England was the first—where laws are being enacted to make treatment of cattle against the warble fly (grub) compulsory. The law provides that approved methods of treating cattle shall be used by all owners. In cases where owners fail to carry out such treatment, local authorities are empowered to do so at the owner's risk and expense.

Wool production in Canada during 1935 amounted to 19,371,000 pounds from 3,401,695 sheep, compared with 19,544,000 pounds from 3,423,951 sheep in 1934. The average price per pound in 1935 was 12 cents, compared with 10 cents the preceding year. It is estimated that some 5,000,000 pounds of wool are used on Canadian farms for home spinning and weaving.

Twenty thousand hectares may now be rented by individuals in the Argentine territories of La Pampa, Neuquen, and Tierra del Fuego. This is double the former limit of 10,000 hectares which was found to be too low in view of the fact that much of the land is so broken that only a portion of the holding could be utilized.

An Argentine decree of December 2 suspended minimum prices for wheat and linseed fixed by the government as

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ROUND THE RANGE

an aid to exporters of these commodities. Heretofore basic prices of 10 pesos per 100 kilos for wheat, 14 pesos per 100 kilos for linseed, and 5 pesos per 100 kilos for corn were guaranteed by the Argentine Grain Regulating Board.

Estimated sheep population of Soviet Russia in July, 1935, was 55,500,000—an increase of 8,500,000 on that of the previous year. Wool production in 1935 was 167,000,000 pounds, greasy basis. Quality of the clip is mainly coarse but is being greatly improved by crossbreeding with Merinos. The plan for 1933-37 aims to increase sheep numbers to about 85,000,000 by 1937.

Provision shops and butchers in Germany must draw up lists of customers based on actual household statistics. For this purpose householders will be required to furnish authenticated lists showing the number of persons to be fed. Analogous information must also be provided by hotels, restaurants, and cafes.

Austrian importations of American lard in former years were very large—15,230,000 Austrian shillings' worth (a shilling in 1935 was valued at \$0.1883) in 1930. By 1935 they had dwindled to 495,000 shillings' worth. In 1936, 100 tons were imported, valued at about \$30,000.

Argentina's 1936-37 wheat crop is officially estimated at 249,855,000 bushels, which compares with the latest revised estimate of the 1935-36 crop of 141,021,000 bushels and with an average production of 243,932,000 bushels for the five years ending with the 1934-35 crop.

A scheme for advertising Scottish meat, presented to the Highland and Agricultural Society recently, is estimated to cost £20,000 a year for three years. It is suggested that the funds be produced by a levy of 6 d. a head on cattle and 3/4 d. on sheep.

A new variety of wheat has been raised in the West Kazakhstan Province of Russia the individual grains of which weigh three times heavier than any other known variety and average one centimeter in length.

The airport of Le Bourget in Paris is now open for the importation of meat and animal products permitted to enter France after the usual inspection as to condition.

Horse traffic in London will be suspended between 8 A. M. and 6 P. M. beginning the first of this year.

Live-Stock and Range Report

LIVE STOCK ON WESTERN RANGES IS generally in good condition but suffered from severe weather early in January; ranges are fairly good and feed ample except in the drought areas, according to the January 1 report of the Division of Crop and Live Stock Estimates. Favorable weather during December made possible utilization of range, pasture, and field feeds. Snow at the year's close and in early January covered many ranges in higher and northern areas. Cattle did well in December, but early January storms will be hard on them, particularly in areas of short feed. There are a few thin cattle in the hard hit drought sections, but generally they are in good flesh. Stock sheep on the whole are in good condition except in drought areas in the north and in California. December weather favored desert sheep ranges. Condition of ranges was 72 per cent of normal, compared with 71 last month, 79 a year ago, and 78.6 for the 1927-36 average.

Summary of condition by states follows:

Arizona.—December rainfall and moderate temperatures helped range feeds; late December storms in high and northern areas gave moisture but hard on stock; cattle doing well; sheep in good condition; favorable for early lamb crop.

California.—State of range and feed unfavorable; seasonal rains started feed in south but northern half dry until late December; lack of green feed caused heavy hay and concentrate use and excessive operating costs; feeding continues over much of northern half of state; cattle shrunk considerably in northern areas and much feeding being done; early lambs starting well in south but suffered injury in Sacramento Valley and adjacent areas where ewes still being fed.

Colorado.—December weather mild and favored stock; feed ample in irrigated and mountain sections; range feed short on winter ranges along Utah line in northwest and in some eastern sections; stock in very good condition.

Idaho.—Ranges dry but field pastures

used longer than usual; December mild and open; surplus hay in most sections unless winter severe; some stock put on feed; cattle and sheep in very good condition.

Kansas (western).—Wheat pastures improved by mild weather and above-normal December precipitation; ranges poor; feed short but conserved by wheat pasture use; cattle improved; insufficient feed to carry present cattle through winter unless weather mild and open.

Montana.—Early December weather unfavorable but latter two weeks favorable for stock; late December and early January weather severe; ranges poor except in west and southwest; hay and feeds short in eastern two-thirds and considerable shipped-in feeds and concentrates used; stock in fair condition in drought areas; good in other sections; feed far below needs.

Nebraska (western).—Ranges short; mild open winter permitted full use of short but good quality grass; beneficial snows in some range counties; ample feed in most areas and general hay surplus; considerable concentrates used; cattle in good condition; losses light; marketings heavier than in 1935; little forced selling.

Nevada.—Winter ranges good; ample hay; most cattle on feed; late December snows provided water for desert sheep ranges; cattle and sheep in very good condition.

New Mexico.—Mild weather permitted full range use in December; ranges good except in northeast and southwest; stock generally in good condition and will stand up well unless weather too severe.

North Dakota.—Favorable December weather permitted late grazing in northern and eastern sections; hay and grain feeds short and price abnormally high; stock held up well.

Oklahoma.—Continued warm open December weather required but light feeding; grain pastures used heavily and hay, grains, and other feeds very short; feed supplies shipped in; acute feed shortages if weather and snow bad; feed prices almost prohibitive; cattle in fair flesh.

Oregon.—Winter ranges short and



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dry; hay plentiful but short grass necessitated considerable feeding; some sheep ranges short of water and sheep failed to go on desert ranges; cattle and sheep generally in fair to good condition.

South Dakota (western).—Range, hay, and other feeds short; considerable shipped-in feeds used; stock held up well but severe weather bodes ill for many in only fair condition.

Texas.—Ranges generally good and carry ample matured grass except feed short in parts of Panhandle and north Texas; grain pastures fair; other feeds and forage ample; some surpluses in south and little shortage in north; sheep section ranges good; cattle in good condition; sheep in good flesh and supplemental feeding unnecessary.

Utah.—December favorable for stock and full range use; most winter ranges in good condition except in eastern part of state; hay and feed generally ample; stock in good condition.

Washington.—December grazing conditions good but ranges and pastures dry; dry fall required considerable feeding; abundant hay but feed prices high; stock in fairly good condition.

Wyoming.—December weather favorable; ranges generally open; much shipped-in feeds used in drought areas; stock in good condition; early January cold and snow necessitates heavy feeding.

Bigger Pig Crop Reported

AN INCREASE OF ABOUT 6 PER CENT IN the fall pig crop of 1936 over that of 1935, an increase of about 20 per cent in the combined spring and fall crop, and a decrease of 5 per cent in number of sows to farrow in the spring of 1937 is shown by the December 1 government pig crop report.

Pigs saved in the fall totaled 23,815,000 head—6 per cent more than the fall of 1935 but 11 per cent under the 1930-34 average. Average number saved per litter this fall is the largest ever reported for the fall season. The fall pig crop this year was substantially larger than that of 1936 in all regions except the west north-central states.

Combined spring and fall pig crop of 1936 is estimated at 65,699,000 head—10,744,000 head, or 20 per cent, more than in 1935 but 8,461,000 head, or 11 per cent, fewer than for the 1930-34 average.

Sows to farrow in the spring of 1937 is indicated at 6,650,000 head—378,000 fewer than in the spring of 1936.

Total number of all hogs, including pigs, on January 1, 1937, will probably be somewhat smaller than a year earlier, says the report.

The December hog situation report of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics forecasts a strong hog market throughout the winter and on into next year.

A larger than usual proportion of the available hogs will have been slaughtered by the end of December, says the report, and, moreover, the unfavorable hog-corn price ratio during the fall months is believed to have resulted in reduced breeding for the 1937 spring pig crop. There will be comparatively small supplies of butcher hogs for at least another year, concludes the hog situation report.

Topping Off on Beet Tops

FIVE FINDINGS STAND OUT IN THE results of the 1936 tests at Colorado State College Experiment Station of the value of sugar beet tops for fattening steers. They are:

1. Dried beet tops are most desirable when used as a partial substitute for alfalfa hay.
2. Grinding beet tops is expensive. It does not enhance feeding value enough to justify its cost.
3. Beet-top silage when fed in a wet pulp ration costs more than the feed which it replaces.
4. None of the stocked beet tops enhanced the standard beet by-product ration, consisting of ground corn, cottonseed cake, wet pulp, and alfalfa.
5. Beet tops replacing all the alfalfa hay in a standard ration caused digestive disturbances after 100 to 120 days of feeding.

In a bulletin on the topic, "Beet Tops for Fattening Steers," George E. Morton, H. B. Osland, and R. C. Tom, of the experiment station, summarize and discuss results of the feeding tests. Copies of the illustrated leaflet may be obtained upon request to the station, which is in Ft. Collins, Colorado.

Shifting Salt Rotates Range

A WAY TO PREVENT OVERGRAZING NEAR water supplies and undergrazing and waste of forage in "in-between" areas is told by forage specialists of the Forest Service.

Part of their new idea is directly opposed to old beliefs. Cattlemen have been placing blocks of rock salt near the watering places on the theory that the cattle wanted a drink after consuming salt. Forest Service range specialists have proved, however, that cattle will often take salt and then graze away from the water-hole.

On this information the salting blocks were removed from the watering places and it was found that the cattle would effectively range a greater distance as a result. Cattle ordinarily will not graze more than two and a half miles away from water, even in level country, unless forced to do so by lack of feed.

By building temporary watering places, which were usable in late summer and fall rainy seasons, it also was

possible to extend the grazing range and get more even utilization of the forage. Salt grounds were placed on the average of one for about each 200 acres. Within two weeks the cattle had found their way to salting places four miles from the old ones.

Moving the salt blocks made it possible to keep the cattle on the part of the range that was best to use at a particular season of the year. In addition to a partial rotation in grazing, this shifting of the salt supply also kept the cattle better distributed over the range and proved an inexpensive means of controlling cattle drift. Less fencing was necessary.

This system of distributing salt and building temporary water-holes did not affect the calf crop, as it averaged 75 per cent before and after the experiment. The range specialists, however, recommend an increase in the number of bulls in the herd, as the new system of grazing scatters the herd over a larger part of the range.

Many Crops Now Defy Disease

CONSERVATIVELY ESTIMATED, \$66,000,000 a year is accruing to the benefit of farmers because of the breeding and introduction of disease-resistant varieties of important crops, according to an estimate made by C. H. Coons, of the Department of Agriculture.

In 1935 farmers planted disease-resistant varieties on 55,550,000 acres. Old varieties are being replaced by new ones almost completely in the case of sugar canes. In cantaloupes about a third of the 116,000 acres is planted to resistant varieties. More than 100,000 acres of resistant beets were planted in 1935, and the 1937 planting will be more than 150,000 acres. Improved varieties of asparagus account for about 90 per cent of the acreage. Disease-resistant wheat was planted in 1935 on about 39,000,000 of the 55,000,000 acres. Ninety thousand out of 153,000 acres of lettuce were in the new varieties. Wilt-defying flax accounts for practically all the flax grown in the country. In corn, gains due to resistance to disease were the smallest in the list.

Straw-Alfalfa Feed Efficient

IT IS NOT ALWAYS THE MOST EXPENSIVE feed that puts the most pounds on cattle, according to tests completed recently by the Bureau of Animal Industry at its Miles City, Montana, experiment station.

W. H. Black, beef-cattle specialist of the bureau, reports that one group of heifers fed a mixture of oat straw and alfalfa hay during the wintering period came through in better shape and made much better all-year gain than heifers fed a straight ration of alfalfa hay.

BULLETIN BOARD

The wintering period lasted for 129 days, with one group receiving an average of 9 pounds of oat straw and 11 pounds of alfalfa hay daily, the other, 22 pounds of alfalfa hay daily.

While the alfalfa ration group came through the winter period with an average gain of 133 pounds per animal, compared with 108 pounds for those fed the cheaper mixture, the group fed straw and alfalfa evidently came off the winter feeding period with better grass appetites, since the summer gains for this group amounted to 225 pounds for each animal, compared with 171 pounds for the other group.

This made a total net gain for the straw-alfalfa group, both winter and summer, amount to 333 pounds for each animal, compared with 304 pounds for those fed the straight alfalfa ration—an average of 29 pounds in favor of the group receiving the less expensive feed during the winter months.

Packers' Net Better for Year

Armour

A CONSOLIDATED NET PROFIT OF \$10,184,492 for the fiscal year ending October 31 is reported by Armour and Company. This year's profit is equivalent to 74 cents a share on the common stock and is \$835,000 larger than last year's net. Earnings last year at \$9,348,678 were equal to 57 cents per share. The 1934 net income was \$10,560,619, or 80 cents per share. Sales for the year totaled \$748,935,218, the largest since 1930. Dollar volume of sales was 9.7 per cent above the \$683,000,000 for the preceding year, and the tonnage of products was up 10.8 per cent. Of the \$10,184,492 profit shown in the consolidated income statement, \$7,458,331 was earned by Armour and Company of Delaware and its subsidiaries, which in addition to the domestic packing business include operations in South America and of fertilizer and leather units.

Cudahy

Net earnings of the Cudahy Packing Company for the year ending October 31 were \$1,815,613, against \$1,211,073 in 1935. Earnings this year were equivalent to \$2.65 per share. The year's sales showed steady growth, amounting to \$201,605,000, compared with \$180,218,000 in 1935 and \$151,400,000 in 1934.

Swift

Total sales of Swift and Company for the fiscal year ended October 31 were \$831,671,748. Net profit was \$12,103,750, equivalent to 1.46 cents per dollar of sales and representing an earning of 5.31 per cent on shareholders' total investment. Tonnage was the greatest ever handled, increasing 7.4 per cent over 1935 and 3.4 per cent over 1934, the previous record year. Dividends paid during the fiscal year amounted to \$1.50 per share, or \$8,846,595.

Features of 1936 Meat Trade

OUTSTANDING FEATURES OF THE MEAT trade during 1936 have been summarized by Wm. Whitfield Woods, president of the Institute of American Meat Packers, as follows:

1. Current prices of many meat products, both at wholesale and retail, are lower than they were a year ago as a result of the increased supplies available. Representative grades of fresh beef and veal are from 3 to 9 per cent lower at wholesale than they were a year ago, and lamb 17 to 24 per cent lower. Declines in the wholesale prices of the better known pork cuts as compared with this time last year range from 7 to 21 per cent in the case of fresh pork loins, shoulders, butts, and spare ribs, and from 10 to 21 per cent in the case of smoked hams and bacon.

2. Consumption of meat and lard per capita apparently rose from about 129 pounds in 1935 to approximately 141 pounds in 1936—a gain of about 10 per cent, but lower by about 7 per cent than the average for the five years preceding 1935. It is estimated that about 8 per cent of the meat eaten was in the form of sausage, the aggregate consumption of which in 1936 was the highest on record.

3. The numbers of live stock marketed in 1936 were substantially greater than the numbers marketed in 1935. As a result, the amount of beef produced under federal inspection in 1936 increased about 16 per cent as compared with 1935; the amount of veal about 8 per cent; and of pork about 35 per cent. Production of lamb decreased about 4 per cent.

4. Aggregate production of beef, veal, lamb, and pork in the United States during 1936 is estimated at about 17,000,000,000 pounds—an increase of more than 2,500,000,000 pounds as compared with 1935.

5. The production of lard in 1936 probably will approximate 1,500,000,000 pounds, as compared with slightly more than 1,000,000,000 pounds in 1935.

6. The amount of meat imported into the United States during 1936 probably came closer to balancing the amount exported than at any time in history. Imports during 1936, with figures for November and December partly estimated, totaled 138,000,000 pounds, as compared with 97,000,000 pounds in 1935 and an average of 45,-

000,000 pounds for the five years from 1930 to 1934, inclusive. Exports for 1936, with the figures for November and December partly estimated, totaled 195,000,000 pounds, as compared with 200,000,000 pounds in 1935 and an annual average of 750,000,000 pounds for the five years preceding 1935.

Some Frozen Roughages Safe

ROUGHAGES SUCH AS ALFALFA HAY or corn fodder do not contain any appreciable quantities of poison dangerous to live stock, even though they have been frosted, says Cecil Elder, of the Missouri College of Agriculture, in answering inquiries concerning dangers in feeding roughages that have been frosted or otherwise damaged. There is, therefore, no danger of poisoning following the feeding of this material after it has been frosted or frozen.

Mouldy fodder and mouldy legume hay (with the possible exception of damaged sweet clover) are not in themselves poisonous to domestic live stock, but the feeding of mouldy feed such as these may be injurious because of the digestive disturbances which it may cause. It is always best not to feed mouldy feed, but if it is not too mouldy or too badly spoiled it may be utilized with comparatively little danger, provided it is fed with caution. Animals that are not accustomed to such feed should be fed sparingly at first and never allowed excessive amounts of such food.

Frozen feed of other kinds, such as ensilage, will also cause digestive disturbances, especially in cattle and sheep, and it too should be fed with great caution. It is best to withhold such feed if possible until it has thawed out, or until the frost has passed off, before feeding it to cattle and sheep. Frosted or frozen alfalfa pasture does not seem to be poisonous or particularly dangerous to live stock.

Bulletins in Brief

Government meat grading service has been expanded since its beginning in 1926 to include the grading and stamping of beef, pork, lamb, mutton, and sausage products. Within the last year more than 420,000,000 pounds of these foods were graded and stamped in twenty-two central markets within an area extending from New York to San

HALEY-SMITH COMPANY, STERLING, COLORADO

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BULLS FOR SALE AT ALL TIMES

Francisco and from St. Paul to Oklahoma City. New rules and regulations providing for the manner of operation of the service, issuance of grade certificates, fees to be charged, taking of appeals from inspection, and the like have recently been issued.

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Cattle totaling 198,706 head were sent to market from Wyoming ranges during the first eleven months of 1936. Much of this number included invaluable breeding stock, the sale of which was caused by the recent drought following the killing dryness of 1934. Types of cattle shipped were: Steers, 76,747; cows, 95,813; bulls, 2,893; and calves, 17,776.

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Loss to the live-stock industry of Nevada by coyotes and wildcats runs into many thousands of dollars annually, according to estimates based on reported killings of sheep and lambs in Humboldt County. In that area reports have been made of the killing during the last lambing season of sheep and lambs valued at \$35,000.

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Farm operators in the United States received a return of 7.6 per cent on their net capital investment used for agricul-

tural production in 1935, as compared with a return of 4.4 per cent in 1934, estimates the National Industrial Conference Board. Calculations for 1935 are worked out this way: Gross income, \$8,508,000,000; expenses, \$6,810,000,000; balance, representing farmers' return on invested capital, \$1,598,000,000, or 7.6 per cent of capital invested in 1935 which amounted to \$21,097,000,000.

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A nation-wide sales campaign on lamb has been agreed upon by various interests of the live-stock and meat industry, reports the National Live Stock and Meat Board. Recent figures indicate that representative grades of fresh lamb are selling at wholesale 17 to 24 per cent lower than a year ago—a condition which the campaign is designed to help.

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Nebraska farmers received \$232,897,000 from sale of principal farm products and from the federal government in benefit payments during the first ten months of this year—a gain of 28 per cent over 1935. The increase, it is reported, was due to heavier marketings of live stock and higher prices of farm products.

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Unemployed workers in October, 1936, numbered 8,673,000, according to estimates of the National Industrial Conference Board. This is a decrease of 1,999,000, or 18.7 per cent from October, 1935. The American Federation of Labor in August estimated 10,740,000 as the number unemployed, but admits this may have been too high.

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Minerals produced from Alaska mines in 1936 had an estimated value of \$23,347,000, as compared with \$18,312,000 in 1935, according to the Department of the Interior. This amount brings the value of the mineral output of Alaska since 1880 to practically \$722,000,000.

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Probable average cost per mile of rural electrification lines for straight-line construction approximated \$874 as figured from a cost analysis made by REA on 1,511 miles of lines. About 20 per cent were multiphase lines. Customer density averaged 3.8 per mile.

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Perennial wheat has been found, says the *Weekly Market News* (Winnipeg), adding that the discovery opens up a wide range of possibilities which will be tested out by plant breeders on Dominion experimental farms in the next few years.

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Approximately 1,000,000 farmers are now members of co-operatively owned and controlled purchasing associations, which are most numerous in the Midwest and Northwest and in New York and California.

Constitutionality of a law exempting from taxation products made of domestic fats and oils was upheld in a recent Georgia Supreme Court Decision. The law imposes a tax of 10 cents a pound on margarine containing any foreign fats and oils, but exempts from taxation any margarine made of domestic fats and oils.

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The largest turkey crop on record—about 20,000,000 birds—has been reported by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Last year's production was about 15,000,000 turkeys. Preceding record crops of nearly 19,000,000 birds were raised in 1932 and 1933.

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Farmers' gross income from agricultural production is estimated by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics at \$9,530,000,000 for 1936, compared with \$8,508,000,000 for 1935, with \$7,276,000,000 in 1934, and \$5,337,000,000 in 1932.

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Size of laying flocks of farm poultry is about 3 to 4 per cent larger than a year ago. Hens are laying slightly fewer eggs, however, so the total egg production at the beginning of December was about the same as a year ago.

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No sharp line distinguishes "winter wheats" and "spring wheats." In some parts of California and in the South farmers plant well-known varieties of "spring wheat" in the fall and they grow through the winter.

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Cotton-flax material which is less expensive and more adaptable than either flax or cotton has been developed in experiments by the University of Georgia Experiment Station by mixing the two fibers.

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The incubator has all but replaced the setting hen as "machine mothers" using an estimated 1,800,000,000 eggs turn out a billion chicks annually.

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A thirty-seven-year-old mare, believed to have been the oldest horse in Michigan, if not in the entire country, died recently at Coldwater, Michigan.

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Purebred American bison left in North America number only 2,200, and in the rest of the world there remain but 205, reports an exchange.

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Attendance at the recent International Live Stock Show reached 446,000 persons—the best in the show's thirty-seven-year history.

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China's cotton crop in 1936 was the largest of record—estimated at 3,650,000 bales.

HORN WEIGHTS in ½, 1, and 1½ pound sizes, 25 cents each. Prompt shipment. York Foundry, York, Neb.

LONG STEER HORNS

STEER HORNS, polished and mounted, seven feet spread, for sale cheap to close out collection of old relics. Fine decoration. Rare opportunity. Lee Bertillion, Mineola, Texas.

RANCHES, large or small, for sale, exchange, or lease, in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Wyoming, Montana, California, Canada, Central and South America, Africa, and islands of the sea. J. D. FREEMAN, Gunter Building, San Antonio, Texas.

BALDWIN COUNTY, ALABAMA. Unexcelled for general farming, early truck, dairying, poultry, and live stock. Ample rainfall. Healthful climate. Many satisfied northern farmers now there. Cash markets at shipping stations. Improved and unimproved productive lands at attractive prices. For information and free copy "The Southland" write E. J. Hoddy, General Development Agent, Dept. B-14, Louisville & Nashville Railroad, Louisville, Ky.

11,000-ACRE CATTLE RANCH in northern California; controls 30,000 acres of Forest Reserve; 200 acres farming and alfalfa land; good ranch house; 3 large barns. Will carry 1,500 to 2,000 head yearly; both winter and summer range. Price \$7.50 per acre. Terms can be arranged.

Chico Development Corporation
Box 480, Chico, California

Hardy. Recleaned Alfalfa Seed, \$11; Grimm Alfalfa, \$12.50; White Sweet Clover, \$6.50; Red Clover, \$18.50. All 60-lb. bushel. Track, Concordia. Return seed if not satisfied. Geo. Bowman, Concordia, Kansas.

January, 1937

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